

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. BRYANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my remarks with an introduction of an important piece of legislation.

Today, we are introducing legislation that links two important issues—the need for pioneering research and development, and the need for patents with integrity to encourage that research. This relationship of R&D and patent integrity is one of mutual dependence * * * a relationship in which each fosters the other for the benefit of us all.

We all know that pharmaceutical research is one of the best patient protection policies we can buy as Americans. Just ask any physician—or any patient who has benefited from the healing powers of a new pharmaceutical.

In fact, pharmaceutical research and development is one of America's success stories.

But R&D is not a matter of simply walking into a laboratory one day, discovering a product, and putting it on the pharmacist's bench the next week. Drug research is a marathon, not a sprint. It is expensive. And it is time-consuming. It costs more than \$500 million to discover and develop one new medicine. Research-oriented pharmaceutical companies spend an average of 15 years between the time they discover a drug and the time they are allowed to bring it to market.

That explains our legislation and the necessity for patent integrity. Patent integrity is the cornerstone, the wellspring, of research and development. The protection of intellectual property is even spelled out in the Constitution, which states: "Congress shall have the power * * * to promote the progress of science and useful arts, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries."

The message of the Founding Fathers was simple, straightforward and unmistakably clear—and for those reasons, it has stood the test of time. It was—and is—a directive that innovators should be able to benefit from their labors through the protection of intellectual property, which in turn will create the incentive to create pioneering products that benefit us all.

Pharmaceuticals assume a special importance in our nation's research and development efforts. I know this for a fact because my district is home to a major facility of Schering-Plough. This plant contributes in a major way to the economy of the region and employs 800 highly skilled people. But the issues here are much larger and more significant than one plant or one company.

The issues, instead, involve fairness and predictability in America's intellectual property laws—in other words, patent integrity.

In 1984, Congress passed the Hatch-Waxman Act, which was designed to accomplish

two goals. One was to enable generic drugs to get to market faster. The other goal was to restore some of the patent life that branded drugs were losing to lengthy regulatory reviews.

As time passed, however, it has become clear that the goals of Hatch-Waxman were significantly undermined by unintended consequences.

When it passed the legislation in 1984, Congress rightly assumed and anticipated that there would be relatively quick FDA approval for drugs that were in the approval "pipeline" at the time. In fact, that did not occur. For some drugs, the regulatory review took significantly longer than anticipated. This regulatory delay unintentionally deprived them of critical portions of their patent life.

Regulatory delay is an unfortunate occurrence in Washington. In many cases, it has direct consequences. This legislation is intended to address one of those consequences.

This legislation addresses this issue in the right way. It seeks to establish an independent and public review process within the Patent Office. This process would consider claims for patent restoration to offset regulatory delay.

Ultimately, this legislation enables Congress to assure patent integrity. And, by assuring patent integrity, Congress will be assuring a continuation of the types of research and development that helps patients every day.

ESTABLISH NATIONAL WHEAT CLEANING PROGRAM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, Colorado's Fourth Congressional District encompasses the eastern half of our state and is home to some of the most productive agricultural land in the nation. The soil, water, and climate conditions across the Eastern Plains, and throughout much of our state, provide a very favorable environment for Colorado's 14,000 wheat growers.

These growers have produced an average of 84.8 million bushels annually over the past 10 years, producing \$293.5 million in revenue each year. Furthermore, wheat is ranked as one of Colorado's top export commodities by dollar volume. Greater than 80 percent of our state's wheat crop is exported to over 60 different countries, including Egypt, Korea, China, and Latin America. These exports alone account for over \$234.8 million in annual revenue and contribute greatly to the 18,851 jobs produced by the Colorado wheat industry.

Yet, despite the favorable growing conditions and high levels of productivity, Colorado's wheat growers and many other producers across the nation have watched their profits, and in many cases their very livelihoods, decline sharply over the past couple of

years. The agriculture industry has become increasingly dependent upon the foreign marketplace to expand sales and increase revenues, yet many factors have placed our producers at a competitive disadvantage to other exporting nations.

Wheat export trade, in particular, has changed rapidly and significantly over the past decade. Government buying agencies have all but disappeared and have been replaced by private buyers, flour millers, and other end-users, which are typically more discriminating, quality-conscious buyers. One factor under increasing scrutiny is the level of dockage, or unmillable material such as weeds and wheat stalk, contained in U.S. exports.

The growth of U.S. wheat exports has been limited in recent years because cleaned wheat, or wheat that has undergone a process to filter and separate dockage, is not widely available among the U.S. export system, while other countries have been shipping grain with very low dockage content.

In response to pressure from the Congress and America's wheat growers last year, the president's budget request for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) this year includes a provision to allow matching funds to export elevators to install high-speed cleaning equipment. Such a long-term investment would greatly benefit the American wheat industry in particular, and the U.S. trade balance overall, by ensuring our exports are of sufficient quality to actively compete with other wheat exporting nations.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage the Congress to authorize, and the president to implement, an effective national wheat cleaning program to help boost the competitiveness of U.S. wheat in the international marketplace.

W.A. "BILL" TAYLOR IS A TRUE LEADER

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Mr. W.A. "Bill" Taylor, a friend of mine in Louisville, Mississippi. He is truly a man for all seasons. Mr. Taylor is a business leader, a philanthropist, and the CEO and Chairman of the Board of The Taylor Group, Inc.

Mr. Taylor's company was formed by his father, Mr. W.A. "Spec" Taylor is 1927 as a small, family-owned automotive and machine repair business. Today, it employs more than 1,000 people and is comprised of seven subsidiary companies that manufacture all types of machinery. Its "Big Red" product line is synonymous with quality and durability throughout the world.

Mr. Taylor built his company on three words: Faith, Vision, and Work. He has used that motto successfully in business as well as other aspects of his life. Civic and community

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

service activities continue to be a major part of Mr. Taylor's life. He served as a director of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), Construction Industry Manufacturers Association, Mississippi State University Development Foundation, Jackson Symphony Orchestra, Kidney Foundation of Mississippi and the Pshmataha Council of Boy Scouts of America. This week, he was inducted into the Mississippi Business Hall of Fame.

Mr. Taylor's pride and joy are his wife Mitzie, his sons Lex and Robert and their wives, his daughter Teresa, and four grandchildren, Alexis, Bailey, Davis, and Zachary. He has prioritized his life to put his faith, family, and community in the forefront of his life. He is truly a leader in the Third District of Mississippi and I am proud to call him my friend.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN FOGEL

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my good friend, Steve Fogel, who is being honored by Stephen S. Wise Temple in Los Angeles for his years of dedicated service. Steve has served as a member of the Temple Board for 15 years, and has recently completed a two-year term as its president. Steve has played a central role in the development of the Temple into one of the premier institutions of Jewish life in Southern California.

Along with his strong commitment to Judaism, Steve is a successful businessman, an accomplished artist and an author.

Steve is an outstanding example of the self-made man. He put himself through USC while working as a professional photographer. After graduation, he entered the field of real estate. With a couple of years Steve and his partner, Howard Banchik, formed Westwood Financial Corporation, which owns and operates over 125 shopping centers across the Western United States, plus office buildings and apartment complexes.

Steve's literary skills are also extremely impressive. He has written three books, including *The Yes I Can Guide to Mastering Real Estate* and an upcoming work on God and the universe. When he is not writing or tending to his business, Steve is painting. He is an oil-color artist with over 50 portraits in private collections. His work has been placed in public exhibitions and he was the subject of a one-man show at the Sylvia White Gallery in Santa Monica.

Steve's wife, Darlene, also a devoted member of Stephen S. Wise Temple, serves on the board of the Fulfillment Fund and Friends of Neurology at Cedars-Sinai Hospital. They are the proud parents of a son and three daughters, one of whom, Kelly, graduated from Buckley High School with my daughter, Lindsey.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Steve Fogel, a man of many talents and great generosity and community spirit. It is with considerable pride that I pay tribute to this fellow graduate of Hamilton High School in Los Angeles.

CONGRATULATIONS, CHIEF
THOMAS C. O'REILLY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in paying tribute to a man who has served the Newark community with distinction for over 36 years, our Chief of Police, Thomas C. O'Reilly. His many friends, colleagues, and family will gather on Thursday, April 29, for a testimonial dinner in Newark to honor him for his contributions and to express appreciation for his decades of dedicated service.

A lifelong resident of Newark, Chief O'Reilly attended St. Columba Grammar School and St. Benedict's Prep, then went on to earn an undergraduate degree from Kean College and a master's degree from John Jay College of New York City. He furthered his education at Northwestern University, a Police Administration Institute. Chief O'Reilly, who is affectionately known as "Tom," has built an impressive record throughout his career in law enforcement. He was appointed a patrolman and entered the Academy on December 10, 1956; he was later assigned to the 2nd Precinct and then to the Detective Division. Later, he was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the Traffic Bureau. In 1966, he was assigned to the Police Training Academy and then promoted to Lieutenant in 1968. He was assigned to the Office of Management Improvement and Professional Development and assigned as Commanding Officer of the Gambling Squad. Upon promotion to Captain, he was assigned as the Commander of the West District in 1974 and then promoted to the rank of Inspector in 1977, where he was assigned as Commander of the Tactical Force. In 1978, he was assigned to the Detective Division until promotion to Deputy Chief of Police in 1983. Later, he was assigned Chief of Staff to the Police Director and in 1986, he assumed the role of Commanding Officer of the Office of Management Improvement and Professional Development. In 1987, he ascended to the position of Chief of Staff in the Office of the Chief of Police. In 1991, he was assigned as Chief of Staff to the Police Director, and on November 9, 1992, he took over the reins as Chief of Police.

Mr. Speaker, Chief O'Reilly has touched many lives in our community throughout his years of service. He has been a positive influence and a great role model. I know my colleagues join me in wishing Chief O'Reilly all the best and commending him for a job well done.

NEW HEIGHTS IN HYPOCRISY

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues an excellent editorial questioning the President's recent comments about Congressional inaction on Social Security reform which appeared in the *Washington Post*, on April 27, 1999.

[From The Washington Post, Apr. 27, 1999]

A ROUT ON SOCIAL SECURITY

The President now denounces the congressional Republicans for refusing to take a step on Social Security that the president himself has consistently shunned. The Republican leaders say they won't bring up a bill this year to restructure the program so that in the long term revenue will cover costs; they don't want to take the political risk this close to the next election.

The president deplores the fact that they have "abandoned the effort," are "either unable or unwilling to face up to the challenge," etc. "I have proposed concrete steps," said the statement issued in his name last Friday. But he no more than they has said how he would make what he once again called "the tough choices needed to secure the trust fund over the long term." The most he will say is that there should be bipartisan discussions of the subject, which is to say, he wants to share the blame.

Yesterday the vice president joined in beating up on the Republicans for flinching. Since the vice president aspires now to lead the country, perhaps it's fair to ask him, what is he for? It may not surprise you to learn that he hasn't said either.

Mr. Clinton has proposed that the bulk of the projected budget surplus over the next 15 years be set aside to pay future Social Security costs in the only way the government can set it aside, which is use it to pay down debt. It's a good proposal as far as it goes. Debt reduction translates into an increase in national savings that will help the economy grow and make it easier for the government to increase borrowing again when it needs the money to pay the cost of the baby boomers' retirement.

By invoking Social Security, he rightly keeps the money from being used for other purposes, either new spending programs or tax cuts. But his plan, even in the event that the surplus were to materialize as forecast, would close only a little more than half the long-term gap between Social Security revenues and costs. The rest will require benefit cuts and/or tax increases. It's at that point that the voices of the president and his acolyte, the vice president, cease to be heard. It's a lot more fun to save an imaginary surplus than to tell future retirees and/or taxpayers that they'll have to make do with less.

The Republicans want to "privatize" Social Security, meaning shift toward a system in which at least a share of benefits will flow from individual investment accounts rather than the government. To a large extent, the shift would be illusory. The money for the "private" accounts would come from a compulsory national savings program, and to guard against loss, the government, in most versions of the plan, would likewise limit the range of investment.

Our own sense is that the costs and risks of such a step seriously outweigh the possible benefits. That's the president's apparent view as well. He thus berates the Republicans for failing to put forth a plan of which he disapproves. But they like the idea, and some in positions of leadership have at least been tinkering with alternatives. One version already has been put forward with some Democratic support, and another may be unveiled on the House side this week, if only for discussion.

The president offers no counterpart on this or, thus far, on Medicare, either. "We need some leadership of the president," Senate majority Leader Trent Lott said on a Sunday talk show as he announced that he, too, intended to duck the issue this year. The year began with statements of determination by both parties to follow the president's slogan of "saving Social Security first." It's

not happening. They'll spend the time blaming each other instead—and both will be right. To suggest as the president did the other day that only the Republicans are flinching is to give hypocrisy a bad name.

IN HONOR OF THE FRANKLIN CENTER FOR REHABILITATION AND NURSING ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to the Franklin Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary.

The Franklin Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing is a 320-bed skilled nursing facility located in my Queens district. For over 25 years, this institution has served the Queens community with dedication and commitment. It has earned itself the high regard of the Queens community and is considered one of the finest nursing homes in the area.

The Franklin Center, which is Joint Commission accredited, receives annual perfect surveys and is renowned for the expert care provided by the Center's team of highly qualified, experienced professionals.

The Franklin Center is equipped to manage the needs of sub-acute patients requiring IV Therapy, trach vents and tube feeding. In addition, its vast rehabilitative services include: physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social work services, among others.

However, above and beyond the services the Franklin Center provides is the manner in which they treat their patients. Perhaps the Center's greatest asset is its concerned, caring and compassionate staff. Since the Franklin Center is committed to the well-being of those who reside in the home, the Center places a special emphasis on the comfort and security it provides.

For example, the Franklin Center takes into consideration the ethnic make-up of the community which it serves. The Center offers a special focus towards the Asian community and has a full-time Asian cook on staff as well as a multi-lingual staff.

The dietary constraints of the community's Jewish residents are also considered; the Center provides Glatt Kosher catering and religious services.

It is this attention to the individual concerns of its residents and patients that has earned the Franklin Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing its outstanding reputation.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention the fine work of the Franklin Center for Rehabilitation and Nursing as it celebrates its 25th Anniversary. It is truly an honor to have such a remarkable institution in my district assisting my constituents.

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER RUSSELL STALNAKER

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Atlanta Police Officer Russell

Stalnaker who was killed in the line of duty earlier this month. Known to his family and friends as Rusty, the 24 year old officer was a graduate of Stockbridge High School in Henry County. He followed in the footsteps of his uncle and joined the Atlanta Police Department three years ago. Rusty was an asset to his community, not only as a law enforcement officer, but in his work with the Special Olympics and other community organizations.

In 1997, Rusty married Dana Bertholf. The couple made their home in McDonough, Georgia.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to Rusty's wife and parents, Linda and Larry Stalnaker of Rex, Georgia. Our nation is fortunate to have guardians who put their lives at risk every single day to protect us from violence. Rusty Stalnaker was one of those guardians who watched over his family and community. Rusty's life was cut tragically short, but his bravery and heroism will long be remembered.

TRIBUTE TO THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY JAPANESE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute, which this year is marking its 75th anniversary. Throughout its history, this non-profit, tax-exempt school has done a remarkable job of introducing successive generations of children to the art, culture and language of Japan.

Of course, the Institute holds a special place in the hearts of students of Japanese ancestry. But all students, regardless of heritage, have benefitted from the education and special attention that are so much a part of the Institute's tradition.

The Institute, which is located in Pacoima, was started in 1924 under the auspices of 13 original members of the Shikishima Club. The intent from the beginning was for the Institute to promote the language and culture of Japan, and to serve as a central meeting place for members of the San Fernando Valley's substantial Japanese-American community. It has succeeded on all counts.

By 1941, the Institute had increased its annual enrollment to 180 students. However, the school closed following America's entry into World War II. Cabinet officers were accompanied by FBI agents to the various relocation camps set up to intern Japanese-Americans. The Institute did not reopen until 1949, four years after Japan had surrendered to the United States. The initial class had 35 students.

In 1966, the original property was sold due to the deterioration of the building. With the cooperation of 220 past and current parents, a new school building was completed at the present site.

Today the Institute offers classes to students from Nyumon (kindergarten) through high school in the Japanese language, as well as teaching the ancient ceremonies and traditions associated with Japan. A dedicated staff and involved group of parents work hard so that the Institute can meet its financial and educational goals.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the San Fernando Valley Japanese Language Institute, which for 75 years has provided a unique and quality education to hundreds of students.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE J.P. "JAKE" MILLS

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an extraordinary Mississippian, Mr. J.P. "Jake" Mills. I am sad to say that he passed away on Saturday, April 17, 1999. I am proud to say that Jake Mills was a friend of mine and I am thankful for the time I spent with him.

Jake Mills was truly a remarkable person. He touched countless lives, traveling extensively across the country where he formed friendships and ties that made him such a special person. He had a quick wit and a broad knowledge of Biblical scriptures—sometimes combining the two to make a serious point in a humorous way.

He was very active in a wide variety of religious, business, and community organizations. Jake was a devout Christian and he lived his life in a way that reflected his beliefs and values. He served on the board of "Ministry to Men," an organization dedicated to strengthening families through personal responsibility. He also worked to found the Mississippi Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

As an advocate for improving education, he served as an outspoken member of the State College Board in Mississippi. He always stood up for his beliefs and was never shy about expressing his views on what needed to be done to improve higher education for our state.

In 1973, Jake founded J.P. Mills, Inc., a successful business in Tupelo, Mississippi. He served on numerous boards including the Community Development Foundation, Mississippi Economic Council, Petroleum Marketers Association, Business Industry Political Education Committee.

My heartfelt sympathy goes out to his wife, Jane, and their entire family. Mississippi has lost one of our finest leaders in Jake Mills. He set an example for all of us to follow and our country is a better place because of his life.

WHY AM I A REPUBLICAN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit Mr. Steve Remington's answer to a question I recently posed to him, "Why are you a Republican?" Today, I would like to share with you his answer.

This morning, at the republican breakfast, you asked me a question; "Why am I a Republican?" At the time, I did not realize that you were indeed looking for me to speak on the subject. I truly appreciate your sense of humor, and I apologize for not realizing that you were serious. However, since you asked me a direct question, I owe you a direct answer. I am a Republican for three reasons;

my values, my beliefs in fiscal responsibility, and my beliefs in the role of government.

I know that I will not have access to all of the information that an informed legislator and their staff will have. While the political banter happens during the election, I realize that there is always more to the story than the press will reveal. Therefore, I pick candidates with integrity and values similar to mine. My belief is that these candidates will vote, when all of the facts are available, for the best possible decision. My father, my son, and I have all received the Eagle Scout award. For three generations, we have believed in honesty, truth, reverence, and dedicating one's self to making the world a better place to live. I find that the Republican candidates tend to line up with these values more often than not.

Secondly, I believe that we can continue to do better as a society. We can do more for the environment. We can make education stronger. We can continue to promote positive business growth. Social Security can be solid, and we can lead the world to peace. Yet, I believe that it is possible to accomplish all of this and maintain fiscal responsibility. We do not have to mortgage our children's future to satisfy a short-term greed. I find that these tend to be the values of the Republican Party.

Finally, people do not exist to serve the will of the government. The government exists to serve the will of the people. We should not have government for government's sake. There should never be any more government than is necessary to meet the needs of our society. In order to survive in a competitive world, the private sector is always looking for ways to be more efficient. So it should be with government. These beliefs find a home in the Republican Party.

Again I apologize for not realizing that you were asking me a question in earnest. I trust you will accept my response to your inquiry.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a friend of Steve Remington.

A THIRTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE TO THE NEW JERSEY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FUND

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund Professional Association (NJEOFPA) in honoring the 30th anniversary of the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) program. This special anniversary is being highlighted during the NJEOFPA Student Leadership Conference and Awards Luncheon in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In July of 1968, the New Jersey State Legislature signed the EOF program into law. The legislation, sponsored by the then-freshman Assemblyman Thomas H. Kean, was aimed at opening the doors of higher education to economically and educationally disadvantaged students. During the fall of 1968, thirty-four colleges took initial steps to instituting the program and 1,500 students enrolled.

Through the years, the EOF has provided valuable financial resources, counseling, basic skills and academic enrichment to many young men and women. Today, there are fifty-six EOF programs in New Jersey' diverse edu-

cational institutions. Over 30,000 students have received post-secondary degrees through EOF programs, including our current Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and former East Orange, New Jersey Mayor Cardell Cooper. The Educational Opportunity Fund sponsors more than one-third of the African-American and Latino students at New Jersey's state and independent institutions for higher learning. Furthermore, approximately 11% of the first-time, full-time freshman entering New Jersey's colleges and universities are enrolled through EOF.

Mr. Speaker, for thirty years the Educational Opportunity Fund has helped disadvantaged students access higher education. I am proud to join members of the New Jersey Educational Opportunity Fund Professional Association in paying tribute to the 30th Anniversary of the program.

THE GOTHIC WILDERNESS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues an excellent editorial questioning some of the values reflected by parts of the entertainment industry which appeared in the Omaha World-Herald, on April 23, 1999.

THE GOTHIC WILDERNESS

One of the television networks, at some point during the seemingly endless picking over of the tragedy in Littleton, Colo., brought to the screen a young woman who had some connection or other with the gothic subculture.

She was asked about the awful events at Columbine High School. Was it not possible that the killers, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, were acting out the themes of popular lyrics or video games?

The goth girl, as might be expected, came off as disbelieving, almost contemptuous of the idea that anyone would be so stupid as to kill because of a song. Her comments echoed the responses of others, including people in the entertainment industry, who scoffed at the idea that there could be any connection between their art and the orgy of violence that Harris and Klebold unleashed at the Denver-area high school. People, like, have a right to their music. Artists, like, have a right to be controversial.

Certainly it would be difficult to prove that any particular set of lyrics or any particular video game was directly responsible. Harris and Klebold are dead. Even a society that has convinced itself that a goofy cartoon camel creates an irresistible desire in teen-agers to smoke cigarettes doesn't have the ability to read the mind of a killer beyond the grave.

Nonetheless, isn't it about time that someone had the courage to speak up, like the lad who saw the emperor's nakedness for what it was, and say that the saturation of young minds with symbols of violence, Santanism and death is manifestly unhealthy? Won't someone, anyone, give parents permission to pull the plug on video games that involve slaughtering hordes of electronic adversaries like mowing down so many high school students in the cafeteria?

A newspaper columnist found these lyrics in the work of a group admired by Harris and

Klebold: "Kill everything, kill everything—bomb the living bejeepers out of those forces—kill everything, kill everything—bomb the living bejeepers out of those forces."

Maybe such ravings—and some are much worse—don't cause anyone to become a mass murderer. But can it possibly be healthy to entertain oneself by fantasizing about slaughter as a remedy for the petty annoyances of life?

And what of the people who profit from such art, defend it and produce it? Words have meaning. Even if it can't be proved that Harris and Klebold weren't motivated by the bloody images that seemed to so entice them, can the producers and disseminators of those images be admired as just more artists pushing the edge?

The industry claims to occupy the moral high ground, wearing the mantle of artistic freedom, failing to distinguish political satire and social alienation from pathological homicide.

Its spokespeople, like the goth girl on the television screen, demand to be tolerated, or at least left alone. But surely there is at least some moral culpability when the entertainment industry saturates the culture with images of mass murder and some misguided slob in Colorado try to act them out.

HONORING OUTSTANDING STUDENT GABRIELLA CONTRERAS

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Gabriella Contreras, a pupil at Roskrige Middle School in Tucson, Arizona, who has been recognized by the prestigious 1999 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards Program. This award salutes the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

With today's media focusing on tragic stories of troubled adolescents, we must not overlook those teenagers with high ideals and strong community values. Gabriella personifies those qualities and is a true role model in guiding other youth into positive activities that enhance their communities.

As an elementary student, Gabriella was concerned over the gang violence, riots, and drug use which was evident within a neighboring high school. Determined to become part of a solution before her class entered that school, she organized a group of eight friends who picketed the school with placards bearing anti-violence and anti-drug slogans. Through the years, that core group continued to grow as it organized activities aimed at channeling teenagers into constructive endeavors. Today, Gabriella's group has become a community service organization which fills the dual role of improving local neighborhoods while providing a positive group setting for teenagers to identify with as an alternative to gang membership.

Gabriella Contreras and the other recipients of the Prudential Spirit of Community Award have demonstrated outstanding initiative and act as an inspiration to other youth. As such, they represent a warm ray of sunshine during these times of bewildering incidents involving violent and disturbed young people. They are the individuals who will lead their generation into a productive and bright future, and I salute their efforts on behalf of their communities and our nation.

FRANK J. PASQUERILLA: A GIANT
OF A MAN

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on April 21, 1999, Frank Pasquerilla, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Crown American, a Fortune 500 company, entered life eternal.

Frank Pasquerilla was a giant of a man. His intellect and energy was exceeded only by the size of his heart. When he and his wonderful wife, Sylvia, joined my wife and me for the Kennedy Center Gala last December honoring America's most outstanding artists, at the conclusion of the evening as they were entering their hotel, he paused and said to me: "Don't believe the rumors. I'm not retiring." And then with a grin, he added, "I'm never going to retire!" As usual, he was true to his word. Up until the very day of his sudden passing he was working, caring and building: For his family, his company and his community. Leonardo DiVinci said "To understand is to construct." Frank understood that in the best and broadest sense of the word. He was a builder. But his 29 malls, 30 shopping centers and 21 hotels were only the physical structures that gave him the opportunity to build better lives for his family, his associates and his community. When his mall in Altoona burned to the ground, as we slogged through the debris I ask him, "What are you going to do, Frank?" and without hesitation, he replied, "Start over and rebuild." And, of course, he did just that. He was the driving force behind pushing for a new West End Bypass for Johnstown, not because it benefited him, but because it was good for the community. We were to have dinner to discuss a project important to Pennsylvania on the very night he died. His son, Mark, called from his hospital room to express his Dad's apology for not being able to attend, and I told him to assure his Dad that we would do everything in our power to help make his latest dream come true.

If anyone dare suggest that Frank Pasquerilla is no longer with us, they simply didn't know this giant of a man. His extensive and extraordinary philanthropies have made life better for thousands of people, young and old, and will continue to do so far into the next millennium. For as long as the Allegheny mountains turn green in Spring, for as long as our rivers and streams run down to the sea, or the stars shine above and our fields flower under, this giant of a man will live in us and his dear family through his good works which have touched so many lives, and will live in our hearts, forever moved by the afterglow of his example of what all our lives should be.

TRIBUTE TO POLISH-AMERICANS

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, as we approach May 3, the 208th anniversary of the adoption of the first Polish constitution, I rise today to pay tribute to Polish people around the world.

This is an important anniversary to note because few people realize that the Polish con-

stitution of 1791 was the first liberal constitution in Europe. Although the constitution was in effect for less than two years, its principles, such as individual and religious freedom, remained embedded in the national consciousness through two centuries of foreign occupation and intimidation. As a result, after years of forced totalitarianism the people of Poland have miraculously transformed their country into a modern, progressive State in less than a decade.

I am glad that Poland is now a full partner in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization—NATO. As the Polish people know full-well, freedom isn't free. It is heartening to know that those who suffered so long under oppression are now willing to share in the burden of preserving freedom.

So Mr. Speaker, once again, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the people of Poland and their descendants around the world on this historic anniversary.

HONORING NATIONAL ADVANCED
PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Colorado's top high school students, Ms. Payal Kohli upon receiving a National Advanced Placement Scholar from the College Board. The academic achievement of Payal places this student among the best young scholars in the nation.

Payal was one of only 1,451 students to earn the distinction of being named a National AP Scholar out of 635,000 students who took Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 1998. To qualify for this high honor, each scholar had to achieve grades of 4 or above (the top grade is 5) on at least eight AP exams and have accumulated the equivalent of the first two years of college prior to high school graduation. By choosing this most challenging curriculum, Payal can expect to attend any one of this nation's most demanding universities.

The College Board established the AP program in 1955 to challenge high school students with rigorous college-level academic courses. The program is recognized nationally for its high academic standards and assessments. In 1998, more than one million AP exams were administered in 32 different subject areas. Of the nation's 21,000 high schools, almost 12,000 currently offer at least one AP course.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Payal Kohli. I hold this student up to the House, and to all Americans, as an example of the best of America's students.

A 50TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE TO
THE PHILIP MAMOLEJO POST 650,
AMERICAN LEGION

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention today the

fine work and outstanding public service of thousands of Hispanic-Americans and particularly, the Philip Marmolejo Post 650, American Legion, in Redlands, CA. On May 15th, the Post will celebrate its 50th anniversary commemorating a distinguished record of contributions to our community, our state, and our nation.

Hundreds of thousands of Hispanic-American citizens served honorably in our armed forces during World War II, facing the enemy with courage and exhibiting many brave and heroic actions in battle and the line of duty. In fact, 12 Hispanic-American soldiers were presented with the Congressional Medal of Honor by the U.S. Congress during World War II.

Following the war, veterans of the allied effort organized the Philip Marmolejo Post 650, American Legion in Redlands. On June 22, 1949, the post opened to recognize the contributions of Hispanic-American servicemen in World War II, as well as advocate service-connected benefits and practice the ideals of patriotism and loyalty to country.

Over the years, the Philip Marolejo Post 650, American Legion, and its members have been actively involved in numerous veterans, civic, and education activities at the local, regional, and state level. In fact, it has made a very real difference through providing scholarship programs, sponsoring youth athletic programs, and numerous other activities. As a result of these achievements, the Post has been recognized for its exemplary achievements at the local, state and national level.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues today in recognizing the fine contributions of Hispanic-Americans to our nation's history. I want to pay special tribute to the rich and distinguished history of the Philip Marmolejo Post 650, American Legion, for its years of contributions to our community and country. It is only appropriate that the House pay tribute to this record of service today.

THE YEAR 2000 COMPLIANCE
ASSISTANCE ACT

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to introduce the Year 2000 Compliance Assistance Act, a bill that authorizes the acquisition of Year 2000 information technology by state and local governments through the Federal Supply Schedules of the General Services Administration (GSA). As a former local government official and high technology executive, I recognize the tremendous burden placed on state and local governments as they work to ensure that their mission-critical systems are ready for the new millennium.

Under the persistent urging of Representatives CONNIE MORELLA of Maryland and STEVE HORN of California over the past four years, the federal government has sluggishly moved toward readying most federal mission-critical systems for the Year 2000 conversion. However, many are now just beginning to turn their attention to the condition of many state and local government mission-critical systems that are essential to the seamless delivery of essential governmental services on all levels of government. As John Koskinen, chair of the

President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion, has emphasized, we should all be concerned about the ability of some state and local systems to interface with Year 2000 compliant federal systems. These systems include Medicaid and welfare assistance programs.

Recently, I held another hearing in the Subcommittee on the District of Columbia at which the General Accounting Office (GAO) provided an update on the status of the District of Columbia's Year 2000 conversion efforts. The GAO reported this time that the city of Washington, DC was at significant risk of not being able to effectively ensure public safety, collect revenue, educate students and provide health care services. Despite Herculean efforts on the part of the District's Chief Technology Officer, strong private sector support, and substantial federal resources, it appears that the one thing that cannot be controlled during DC's Year 2000 compliance efforts is time. Many states and localities are simply running out of time. I am confident that a substantial number of states, cities, towns, and villages across the country are in similar situations as our Capital City.

This is why I am today introducing the Year 2000 Compliance Assistance Act. This legislation is a voluntary program where the federal government will allow state and local governments to purchase Year 2000 conversion related information technology (IT) products and services off the GSA's IT multiple award schedules. Under this emergency authority, state and local governments will have one more option in the fight against time to procure Year 2000 compliance assistance in a cost-effective and timely manner. I believe that during this period of moving governmental responsibilities back to the states and localities, the federal government has a unique opportunity to provide procurement assistance to the state and local governments to help ensure nationwide Year 2000 compliance or contingency preparation.

The authority under this legislation is limited to the unique nature of the Year 2000 computer bug. The authority would expire on December 31, 2002, and could only be used by state and local governments for procurements necessitated by the Year 2000 budget bug.

I look forward to working with my colleagues towards the rapid enactment of this unique Year 2000 legislation.

TRIBUTE TO NEPTUNE, NJ,
LIBRARY'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 17, 1999, the Neptune, NJ, Library celebrated its 75th anniversary. I was proud to join with Township officials, other dignitaries and residents to celebrate this important milestone.

Neptune, named for the Roman God of the Sea and incorporated as a municipality in 1879, is a diverse community located in Monmouth County. The Township, whose slogan is "Neptune, Crossroads of the Jersey Shore," is a full-service community with great historic significance and an even brighter future. One of the great features of the community is the Neptune Library.

The library was started by the Ocean Grove Women's Club at its Clubhouse on Mt. Carmel Way, aided by books from the Monmouth County Bookmobile. In 1932, the Township rented a vacant store at 204 Ridge Avenue for a township library, with some books and supplemented by the bookmobile. The library shared a building on Corlies Avenue with the Township Public Health and Welfare Department in 1937 until that building was sold, moving to the Sunday School Room in the basement of the West Grove Methodist Church. In 1955, the Township Library opened at the Township Municipal Building at 137 Main St., open Tuesday afternoons, expanding its hours to Wednesday mornings in 1960. The year 1961 proved to be an eventful one for the library, with the Friends of Neptune Library organized in February. Recommendations for a new facility contained in a report released in March. On July 20, the Township Library opened its doors at 1908 Corlies Avenue, the site of a former machine shop, open to the public Monday through Thursday afternoons and Wednesday evenings.

On November 30, 1961, the Neptune Library Association, Inc., was incorporated, while the Board of Trustees organized in 1964. In 1966, the first Books, Arts and Crafts Festival was held on the future site of the library, and ground was broken at the site on Springdale Ave. (now Neptune Blvd.) on May 10, 1969. Opening day for the Library was on March 22, 1971. It became a municipal library in 1972 following a township referendum.

Mr. Speaker, obviously the history of the library is a long and illustrious one. Through the years, the library has been an important cultural and informational resource for the people of Neptune Township, and it continues to fulfill that mission to this day. The growth and success of the library is a strong reflection on the dedication and commitment of the people of this community to enhance the quality of life for the benefit of all. I am pleased to pay tribute on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Neptune Library.

TRIBUTE TO 12 OUTSTANDING
STUDENTS

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proudly recognize 12 outstanding students from Heritage Christian High School in West Allis, Wisconsin and their teacher, Mr. Tim Moore, who are representing the State of Wisconsin in the national finals of the 1999 "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" competition in Washington, DC.

This is the third time that a class from Heritage has been named State of Wisconsin champions in this exceptional program sponsored by the Center for Civic Education and developed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Mr. Moore and his students have worked diligently to reach the national finals and have gained an impressive understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

This year's representatives from Heritage are: John Averkamp, Brent Barnett, Maureen

Buchanan, Tim Cady, Tara Flood, Mike Frede, Mike Gruennert, Josh Lutter, Jessica Mobley, Justin Roeder, Luke Sinclair, and Anthony Slammar.

I ask the House to please join me in congratulating Mr. Moore and his students in winning the State of Wisconsin "We the People . . ." championship, and wish them continued success in the national finals. I look forward to greeting them personally when they visit the U.S. Capitol.

HONORING NATIONAL ADVANCED
PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Colorado's top high school students, Mr. Aaron Kohl upon receiving a National Advanced Placement Scholar from the College Board. The academic achievement of Aaron places this student among the best young scholars in the nation.

Aaron was one of only 1,451 students to earn the distinction of being named a National AP Scholar out of 635,000 students who took Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 1998. To qualify for this high honor, each scholar had to achieve grades of 4 or above (the top grade is 5) on at least eight AP exams and have accumulated the equivalent of the first two years of college prior to high school graduation. By choosing this most challenging curriculum, Aaron can expect to attend any one of this nation's most demanding universities.

The College Board established the AP program in 1955 to challenge high school students with rigorous college-level academic courses. The program is recognized nationally for its high academic standards and assessments. In 1998, more than one million AP exams were administered in 32 different subject areas. Of the nation's 21,000 high schools, almost 12,000 currently offer at least one AP course.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Aaron Kohl. I hold this student up to the House, and to all Americans, as an example of the best of America's students.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL
JAMES MCINTOSH

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Major General James McIntosh, a highly distinguished leader of the New Jersey Air National Guard who is retiring after many years of dedicated service to our great Nation. Major General McIntosh was assigned to the 108th Air Refueling Wing and the 204th Weather Flight, both stationed at McGuire Air Force Base, and the 177th Fighter Wing, which is based at Atlantic City International Airport. He has served our Nation's military with great pride and is exemplary as a leader.

Major General McIntosh entered the Air Force in 1959 through the Aviation Cadet Program at Harlingen Air Force Base, TX, and

was commissioned as an aircraft navigator in 1960. He is a Master Navigator with over 6,400 flying hours including 100 combat missions during the Vietnam War. General McIntosh entered the New Jersey Air National Guard in 1978, commanded the 170th Air Refueling Group from 1989 to 1992, and has commanded the New Jersey Air National Guard since 1992.

As our Nation proceeds with its involvements around the globe, the National Guard will continue to be an integral part of the total military force structure. Highly qualified citizens participating in the National Guard are the backbone of our national strength. Leaders such as Major General McIntosh command and guide many through the necessary training efforts that sustain a world-class organization.

It has been my privilege to know Major General James McIntosh and witness his dedication to the National Guard. He is a true leader and asset to the armed forces. Major General McIntosh serves as a model upon which future leaders should be based.

INTRODUCTION OF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUST MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1999

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. THOMAS of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce on behalf of myself, Mr. CARDIN of Maryland, and other Representatives the "Real Estate Investment Trust Modernization Act of 1999". This legislation modernizes outdated real estate investment trust (REIT) rules that prevent REITs from offering the same types of services as their competitors. I am proud to note that there are more REITs based in California than any other State, and REITs have invested more than \$24 billion in California communities.

In 1960, Congress created REITs to enable small investors to invest in real estate. Prior to the creation of REITs, real estate ownership was largely restricted to wealthy individuals who invested through partnerships and other means generally unavailable to the broader public.

Although a variety of factors limited the growth of REITs through the mid-1980's, they played a leading role in reviving weak real estate markets in the wake of the economic turmoil of the late 1980's and early 1990's because of their access to public capital markets and because REITs offer liquidity, security, and performance which alternative forms of real estate ownership often do not. Yet, in more recent years, REITs increasingly have been unable to compete with private held partnerships and other more exclusive forms of ownership. Antiquated REIT rules prevent REITs from offering the same types of customer services as their competitors, even though such services are becoming more central to marketing efforts.

Current law restrictions require REITs to adhere to unworkable distinctions that defy logic and impede competitiveness. Under current law, REITs only may provide "customary services" to their tenants, that is, services that are common in the industry and have been tradi-

tionally provided by real estate companies, such as furnishing water, heat, light and air conditioning.

The "customary services" standard ensures that REITs may provide services only after industry leaders have already done so, thus locking in a competitive disadvantage. In addition, the vagueness of the standard produces seemingly irrational distinctions. For example, REITs can have parking lots for shopping centers or offices they own, but cannot offer valet parking. REITs can own apartments, but cannot provide lifeguards or amenity services. REIT competitors can—and do—provide all these services without any restrictions.

The Administration's fiscal year 2000 budget acknowledges this problem, and proposes modernizing REIT rules to permit them to compete. As the Department of Treasury stated in its explanation of the Administration's revenue proposals, "The determination of what are permissible services for a REIT consumes substantial time and resources for both REITs and the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, the prohibition of a REIT performing, either directly or indirectly, non-customary services can put REITs at a competitive disadvantage in relation to others in the same market."

The Administration addresses this problem by creating a new category of companies which it refers to as "taxable REIT subsidiaries". Those entities would be exempt from current law restrictions that prohibit REITs from owning either (a) securities of a single non-REIT entity that are worth more than 5 percent of the REIT's assets or (b) more than 10 percent of the voting securities of a non-REIT corporation.

The Administration's proposal would create two types of taxable REIT subsidiaries: a "qualified business subsidiary" that could engage in the same activities now performed by "third party subsidiaries"; and a "qualified independent contractor" subsidiary that would be allowed to perform non-customary activities for REIT tenants, as well as those services which also could be performed by qualified business subsidiaries. The Administration's proposal would limit the value of all taxable REIT subsidiaries to 15 percent of the total value of the REIT's assets, but would restrict subsidiaries providing leading edge type services to REIT tenants to 5 percent of the REIT asset base. The Administration proposal also would amend the current 10 percent test so that it would apply to 10 percent of holdings as measured by the vote or value of a company's securities.

Although the Administration's proposal is a welcome first step, its narrow focus still would leave substantial impediments to competition in place. Today, we are introducing legislation that builds upon the Administration proposal to make REITs more competitive.

Our legislation would allow REITs to create taxable subsidiaries that would be allowed to perform non-customary services to REIT tenants without disqualifying the rents a REIT collects from tenants, that is, performance of those services would no longer trigger a technical violation of the REIT rules.

Toward that end, the 5 percent and 10 percent asset tests would be amended to exclude the securities that a REIT owns in a taxable REIT subsidiary. Also, like the Administration proposal, the 10 percent test would be tightened to apply to both the vote and value of a

company's securities. In addition, a REIT owning stock of taxable REIT subsidiaries would have to continue to meet the current law requirement that at least 75 percent of a REIT's assets must consist of real property, mortgages, government securities, and cash items; the subsidiaries' stock would not count toward that total. However, dividends or interest from a taxable REIT subsidiary would count toward the requirement that a REIT must realize at least 95 percent of its gross income from those sources plus all types of dividends and interest.

Under our proposal, the income a REIT subsidiary would receive from REIT tenants and others would be fully subject to corporate tax. In addition, the proposal includes strict safeguards to ensure that neither a REIT nor a taxable REIT subsidiary could improperly manipulate pricing or the allocation of expenses to reduce the subsidiary's tax burden. Our bill is supported by the American Resort Development Association, the International Council of Shopping Centers, the National Apartment Association, the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts, the American Seniors Housing Association, the Mortgage Bankers Association of America, the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties, the National Association of Realtors, the national Multi Housing Council, and the National Realty committee.

In sum, Mr. Speaker, our legislation will provide REITs the flexibility they need to be competitive. We must not allow the Tax Code to inhibit the ability of REITs to compete and to offer the full range of services demanded by residential and commercial tenants. Mr. CARDIN and I and our cosponsors urge our colleagues to review this legislation and we hope that they give this legislation every possible consideration.

WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY IN YORK, PA: "MOURN FOR THE DEAD, FIGHT FOR THE LIVING"

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, today, ceremonies of memory and reflection marking Workers Memorial Day are taking place in cities and towns across the country, including York, PA, which is in my congressional district. The ceremony in York will particularly remember eight individuals from the 19th Congressional District of Pennsylvania who have been killed in tragic accidents while at their respective work sites this past year Joyce E. Born, Michael L. Brashears, Sr., C. William Brinkmann, Bradley M. Dietrick, William E. Keeney, Jr., Bernard L. Rishel, and Dennis J. Stough.

Ceremonies such as the one taking place in York are an important reminder to us all of the importance of workplace safety. Accidents are never planned. Avoiding accidents requires the consistent efforts and vigilance of employers and employees. Government too plays a role in encouraging safe work practices.

For far too long, federal efforts to limit workplace safety have been focused on enforcement for "enforcement's sake." This has led the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to concentrate their limited resources on issues peripheral to worker safety

including, but not limited to: paper work violations, duplicative inspections, and issuing citations as a performance bonus for inspectors.

Congress has made progress over the past several years in redirecting and refocusing OSHA toward a different approach that maximizes their resources while increasing the overall quality of safety in America's workplaces. Instead of focusing on enforcement alone, we have worked to expand consultation, partnership, and outreach programs offered by OSHA.

We can be grateful that workplace fatalities and workplace injury rates have declined and are now at the lowest levels since those records have been maintained. These record lows have even been achieved even though we are in the midst of a tight job market, a time in which injury rates have historically increased.

Still, any workplace death is too many. I want to join with my constituents in remembering those who died, and using this day to encourage employers and employees to renew their efforts to prevent future tragedies from occurring.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATENT FAIRNESS ACT

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced a proposal that encompasses three principles—fair play, equity and depoliticization.

The United States must do whatever possible to assure patent integrity, so we can continue to receive the desired public benefits from pharmaceutical research. Creating a fair and impartial process where an independent body can determine whether or not to restore lost patent life is a matter of fairness. It also is a matter of ensuring adequate incentives for research and development in the future.

In this case, several drugs were caught in a review process that took significantly longer than Congress anticipated. Thus, the patent life of certain of these "pipeline" drugs was reduced by an unintended consequence that had nothing to do with their medical safety.

There are two important questions: What type of process can we put in place to guarantee a fair and reasonable evaluation of the issues? And, what types of assurances should be embedded in this process to make sure it is equitable and removed from politics?

Our bill answers these questions. Our bill establishes a process that is fair, equitable, independent, separated from politics, and fully open to the public, and subject to judicial review. Let me expand on these features.

The bill establishes an independent and public review process within the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. This would be a new administrative procedure—one that is fair and impartial. The experts at the Patent and Trademark Office are the right experts to hold a hearing about these issues, because these issues involve questions not of medical research, but legal issues involving patent life.

Within the office, a procedure would be established to review claims for patent term restoration to compensate for unanticipated

lengthy regulatory review of ten years or more in the FDA's New Drug Approval proceeding.

The process established by this legislation would be akin to a court hearing. Any company that believed its product was unintentionally deprived of patent protection would have the opportunity to present its case. Any other interested party would also be free to make its case. Both sides would be treated equally. Everything would occur in the open. The review board would be bound by objective criteria.

By turning over the issues to an independent panel of experts, the process would be driven by public policy objectives—not politics. This is an important point. Our bill is driven by the principle that it is best to take politics out of the equation, to depoliticize the process, to take Congress out of the job of deciding individual patent issues.

Finally, fairness and equity are assured by another provision. The decision would be subject to judicial review.

Another way to describe the legislation is to outline what it does not involve. There is no preferential treatment for any affected pipeline drug. There are no arbitrary decisions. There are no guarantees. Our bill is about process, not about answering a predetermined outcome.

We are convinced this is the right solution. As a medical doctor and psychiatrist, I have seen the benefits of breakthrough drugs and innovations. They truly can make people's lives better, and there is more to do.

HONORING NATIONAL ADVANCED PLACEMENT SCHOLARS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Colorado's top high school students, Ms. Emily Brooks upon receiving a National Advanced Placement Scholar from the College Board. The academic achievement of Aaron places this student among the best young scholars in the nation.

Emily was one of only 1,451 students to earn the distinction of being named a National AP Scholar out of 635,000 students who took Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 1998. To qualify for this high honor, each scholar had to achieve grades of 4 or above (the top grade is 5) on at least eight AP exams and have accumulated the equivalent of the first two years of college prior to high school graduation. By choosing this most challenging curriculum, Emily can expect to attend any one of this nation's most demanding universities.

The College Board established the AP program in 1955 to challenge high school students with rigorous college-level academic courses. The program is recognized nationally for its high academic standards and assessments. In 1998, more than one million AP exams were administered in 32 different subject areas. Of the nation's 21,000 high schools, almost 12,000 currently offer at least one AP course.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating Emily Brooks. I hold this student up to the House, and to all Americans, as an example of the best of America's students.

HONORING MARTIN J. "MARTY"
FORD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to my good friend Marty Ford who will be honored this evening by the Guilford Democratic Town Committee for his contributions to the Guilford community.

Like an illustration of a quaint New England town, Guilford is probably best known for its historic Town Green. Residents take great pride in the enchanting atmosphere of this growing community and work hard to maintain its unique character and charm. As a longtime resident of Guilford, Marty has devoted countless hours ensuring that the culture and history of the town is preserved. He has served ten years on the Planning and Zoning Commission, eight years on the Historic District Commission and sat on two Charter Revision Commissions. We commend his distinguished record of service.

The political arena has served as a forum for Marty's diligent work to promote the values and ideas that have guided him. For decades he has served as a strong political supporter for candidates running for local, state and federal government. He cares about his community, and uses his talent to help elect leaders who will do the same. He has served twelve years on the Board of Education, helping to develop policies that will best serve Guilford's youth, the leaders of tomorrow.

Marty is also known for his work with Guilford residents and community leaders. As President of the Guilford Interfaith Ministries, Marty's energy is directed at assisting some of the community's most vulnerable citizens. Under his direction, programs such as "Meals on Wheels", Friendly Visitors, and the Guilford Food Bank assist hundreds of people in need.

As an active citizen of Guilford, Marty is the kind of man who quietly makes his town a better place. He appreciates Guilford's past and has a vision for its preservation for the future. If Marty sees a need in the community, he takes it upon himself to work toward a solution. At a time when many Americans are becoming bitter about problems that seem too great to solve, Marty is the kind of man that serves as an example of hope. If we continue striving for a better community as Marty does, we really can make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to join with family, friends and the town of Guilford to honor Marty Ford for his outstanding service to the community. His efforts are clearly deserving of this public recognition and gratitude. I wish him continued success and thank him for the high standard he has set for us all.

HONORING THE REVEREND ROBERT M. NERVIG ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Reverend Robert M. Nervig for his

service to the people he has served and the communities he has enriched in his 43 years as a minister in Brooklyn and throughout the city and across the country.

Reverend Nervig began his ministry in 1956 when he was ordained into the Holy Ministry at the Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Soon after that he began his religious ministry at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Brooklyn. Three years later he moved to Our Savior Lutheran Church serving the Staten Island community. And in 1988, Reverend Nervig returned to Trinity, Brooklyn where he continued his ministry in this multilingual, multi-cultural parish. During this time he also served as president of Augustana Academy, a school that broke all barriers by providing academic opportunities to children of all races and economic position.

Reverend Nervig has been a powerful force in our community, because of his strong commitment to serve diverse communities. His ministry is not bound by the constraints of language or culture, and extends to the many diverse groups of people in the communities to which he ministers. His parish is surrounded by the sounds of prayers in many languages, and each Sunday his multi-cultural parish prays in three languages—English, Norwegian and Spanish. His efforts to reach out and unite people involved him in the organization of 65 congregations of the former American Lutheran Church.

And beyond this, Reverend Nervig has touched the lives of thousands, of young adults in the community through his activities in youth ministries, where he is known as "Pastor Bob." As president of Augustana High School, he has helped strengthen and expand that diverse institution—a place where students rich and poor from many backgrounds and many nations can learn in a dynamic environment. He has organized youth outreach programs and national Lutheran youth gatherings that have become enormously successful, and have touched young people across the country.

Reverend Nervig is a model for our community in Brooklyn and a model for communities across the country. I urge my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring reverend Robert M. Nervig for his 43 years of service to many communities—a ministry and a man that can be condensed into these words—a love for all God's children—no matter the age.

THE MILITARY RESERVISTS SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF ACT

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Military Reservists Small Business Relief Act of 1999 to aid small businesses whose owner, manager or key employee has been or may be called to active duty in the Balkans. I am pleased to note that I have been joined by a bipartisan group of my colleagues in sponsoring this legislation. A companion bill is being introduced in the Senate, and we are hopeful that Congress will address this issue expeditiously.

Eight years ago, at the beginning of the Gulf War, substantially identical legislation was in-

troduced and passed. Now, as then, we in Congress owe it to those brave men and women who are answering their nation's, and the world's, call to help resolve the situation in Kosovo. Small businesses which rely on the talents and energies of reservists called up for active duty can suffer immeasurable harm from the absence of those individuals.

The bill I am introducing today provides three forms of assistance to small businesses affected by the call up of reservists. Briefly, the bill would address the following matters:

Deferral of Loan Repayments. Payments would be deferred on any direct loans from the Small Business Administration, including disaster loans, which have been extended to reservists or guard members who have been called to report for active duty. SBA is further directed to develop policies consistent with this approach for microloans and for guaranteed loans under SBA's financial assistance programs. Deferrals will be available from the date of call up until 180 days after he or she is released from active duty.

Economic Injury Loans. The bill establishes a new program, to be administered by SBA's disaster loan program, to provide interim operating capital to any small business where the departure of a reservist causes economic harm to that business. This program applies when the individual called up is an owner, manager or a key employee; businesses can apply from the date of a call up until 180 days after the reservist is released from active duty.

Technical Assistance, Counseling and Training. SBA and its private sector partners, such as the Small Business Development Centers, are directed to reach out to businesses affected by the call up of reservists and guard members. The goal would be to mitigate business disruptions through counseling, training and other assistance for those left behind to run the business.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all our colleagues to join with me in moving forward to pass this bill and provide this much needed relief to our reservists. As former Senator Bumpers said when he introduced a similar bill in 1991 during the Gulf war, "... some small business will be irretrievably lost due to this war ... We may not be able to save all them. But where government can offer a helping hand, surely we must." The year is different, and the war in the mountains of south-east Europe rather than the sands of the Middle East. But the needs are the same, as is our responsibility.

WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSE- UM'S DOCENT PROGRAM CELE- BRATES 30 YEARS

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a group of very special volunteers who have served the art community in my district for three decades. On May 1, 1999, the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum in Hartford, CT, will mark the 30th year of its Docent Program. A program that has continued to comprise some of the most dedicated and talented volunteers in Hartford.

While an artist cannot paint without brushes, the Wadsworth could not bring the thousands

of art treasures in its collection to life without its docents. And while a docent is a volunteer position, the word "volunteer" does not fully recognize the vast amount of knowledge that a person must acquire before taking part in this program.

Before a docent can share the history behind each painting or sculpture with the public, he or she must first participate in a year-long training session. Having to master approximately 65 hours of education on art history, the museum collection, and tour techniques clearly demonstrates the high level of commitment that these volunteers bring to this position.

A visitor to the Wadsworth, which is the oldest public art museum in the United States, becomes a student of art no matter what their age. They rely on the docent to educate them about nineteenth-century American landscapes, to educate them about French and American Impressionist paintings, to educate them about twentieth century masterpieces, and to educate them about its MATRIX program of changing contemporary exhibitions and performances, one of the first of its kind in the country.

Most importantly, for some visitors the Wadsworth is the first art museum they have visited, or at least the first art museum in Hartford they have visited. That is what makes the docents so special. They are more than tour guides. They are ambassadors of art. They are ambassadors of Hartford.

As a resident of nearby East Hartford, I have made many trips to the Wadsworth as both a student and a father. It remains a place that educates the mind and excites our soul about the amazing world of paint, canvas, sculpture, marble and textiles. But just as a painting is not complete without the perfect frame, no visit to the Wadsworth would be complete without a lesson on the world of art from a docent.

It is with great pride that I congratulate the volunteers that have maintained the Docent Program for 30 years at the Wadsworth Atheneum. Thank you for so generously providing us with your time and knowledge.

84TH COMMEMORATION OF ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join with my many colleagues today in remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide. But rather than repeat what has already been said, let me say a few words about the very positive spirit of the Armenian people. They endured a great deal before, during and after the genocide. They were also under the totalitarian dictatorship of the Soviet Union for many decades.

That all ended in 1991, and I was there to see it. I was one of the four international observers from the United States Congress to monitor Armenia's independence referendum. I went to the communities in the northern part of Armenia, and I watched in awe as 95 percent of all of the people over the age of 18 went out and voted. And, of course, I thought

how great it would be if we could get that kind of participation in our own democratic elections here in the United States of America. Sometimes we take things for granted.

But the Armenian people had been denied freedom for so many years, and they were very excited about this new opportunity. As best I could determine it, Mr. Speaker, almost no one stayed home. They were all out in the streets going to the polling places. I watched people stand in line for hours to get into these small polling places and vote.

Then, after they voted, the other interesting thing was that they did not go home. They had brought covered dishes with them, and all of these polling places had little banquets afterward to celebrate what had just happened.

What a great thrill it was to join them the next day in the streets of Yerevan when they were celebrating their great victory. Ninety-eight percent of the people who voted cast their ballots in favor of independence. It was a wonderful experience to be there with them when they danced and sang and shouted, "Ketse azat ankakh Hayastan"—long live free and independent Armenia. That should be the cry of all freedom-loving people everywhere.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FORMER INSURANCE AGENTS TAX EQUITY ACT OF 1999

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with my colleagues, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. NEAL, Mr. RAMSTAD and Ms. BALDWIN, to introduce the Former Insurance Agents Tax Equity Act of 1999, a bill designed to expand a provision in the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 (TRA) that ensured that certain retired insurance agents are not unfairly subjected to self-employment tax. This bill will continue our efforts and will bring consistency and fairness to the tax treatment of similarly-situated former insurance agents.

Congress, recognizing that valued, long-time insurance agents with certain termination contracts were being improperly subjected to self-employment tax, enacted a provision in the TRA designed to clarify that termination payments received by former agents are exempt from self-employment tax.

In particular, the TRA amended §1402 of the Internal Revenue Code to provide that an agent's eligibility for termination payments could be tied to the agent's length of service. Unfortunately, the provision did not also allow for the actual amounts of the payments to depend on an agent's length of service. As a result, some termination payments are exempt from self-employment tax, but others are not since insurance companies structure their agreements with agents in slightly different ways.

Some companies tie a former agent's eligibility for termination payments to his or her length of service with the company. While the agent's eligibility for payments is tied to length of service, the actual amount of the termination payment is not. Under current law, these former agents could receive termination payments indefinitely without incurring self-employment tax. (The payments, of course, continue to be subjected to income taxes.)

Other companies structure their agreements slightly differently. These companies limit the period in which a former agent receives payments and they vary the amount of the payments according to each agent's length of service and performance during his or her last year of service. This payment structure is designed to encourage agent loyalty since agents are rewarded for long-term service with the company. However, since the amount of payment is tied to the agent's length of service, these payments would be subject to self-employment tax under current law.

There is no policy justification for providing different tax treatment for these substantially similar arrangements. Both types of contracts seek to satisfy the same goal of rewarding loyal, long-time agents with more compensation. It should not matter for tax purposes whether this result is achieved by varying the actual amount of compensation rather than the term of compensation.

The Former Insurance Agents Tax Equity Act of 1999 simply would strike language in the Internal Revenue Code that prevents companies from using a former agent's length of service in determining the amount of termination payment the agent will receive. In doing so, this bill provides equitable tax treatment for similarly-situated former agents.

This provision is supported by thousands of insurance agents around the country, as well as the National Association of Life Underwriters, the Coalition of Exclusive Agents, and the National Association of Independent Insurers. This issue affects a small number of agents and any revenue implications of making this clarification should be negligible.

In the interest of ensuring that termination payments to former insurance agents are treated fairly and consistently under our tax laws, I hope that you will join me in supporting the Former Insurance Agents Tax Equity Act of 1999.

IN COMMEMORATION OF WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Workers Memorial Day, I rise to pay tribute to the brave individuals who have tragically lost their lives or who have been injured while performing duties in service to their employers.

My district is home to numerous plants and factories which provide gainful employment opportunities for many of my constituents. We all recognize that industrial and physically intensive jobs are necessary occupations which drive our manufacturing economy but often times involve very dangerous tasks. I praise the men and women who perform these jobs and take the risks to provide for a good life for themselves and their loved ones and who produce the products that make all of our lives easier or more comfortable. Unfortunately, we seldom recognize the dangers associated with an industrialized workplace until there is an accident or incident and we in Congress need to make sure that our Nation's workplace safety laws provide for the maximum level of safety for the men and women who perform dangerous jobs day in and day out.

It is a terrible occurrence any time a worker loses his or her life or suffers an injury while on the job, but February 1, 1999 was an especially tragic day in my district. This was the day of the explosion at Ford Motor Company's Rouge Power Plant which took the lives of six workers and caused serious injuries to several more. The men who lost their lives in the explosion were Donald Harper, Cody Boatwright, Ron Moritz, Ken Anderson, John Arseneau, and Warren Blow. All were brave, loving and caring family men, proud members of the United Auto Workers and loyal Ford Motor Company employees. It is fitting on this Workers Memorial Day that we pay special tribute to our fallen brothers of the Rouge explosion and let their families and friends know that they will always be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect on this Workers Memorial Day that I remember and honor all our brothers and sisters who have sacrificed their lives or who have suffered an injury while on the job. I ask that my colleagues also join me in honoring the men and women to whom Workers Memorial day is dedicated.

CONDEMNING MURDER OF ROSEMARY NELSON AND CALLING FOR PROTECTION OF DEFENSE ATTORNEYS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 1999

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the senseless and brutal murder of Ms. Rosemary Nelson. As a human rights lawyer who represented the rights of peace-loving Catholics in Northern Ireland, Ms. Nelson and her family endured constant threats, violence, and intimidation at the hands of the state police force, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC).

Despite the massive daily threats and concerted campaign of nightly fire bombings against Catholics in the area, Rosemary Nelson continued to be an outspoken proponent of peace and the rights of the victims facing such violence. Late in 1998, she traveled to Washington to testify before the House Committee on International Relations regarding the campaign of terror perpetrated against the Catholic minority in her home land. Even though a United Nations special Rapporteur and given accounts of consistent and systematic physical intimidation against defense lawyers by RUC officers, Ms. Nelson would not be deterred from her course.

Rosemary Nelson was a true champion of peace, and gallantly defended the freedoms of a repressed minority in County Armagh in Northern Ireland. Sadly, Ms. Nelson paid the ultimate sacrifice for striving to uphold those freedoms after a cowardly placed bomb exploded under her car this past March. True to her robust Irish spirit, Ms. Nelson tenaciously fought for life, but her injuries proved to be too extensive. She passed away on March 15th, 1999.

Now, other courageous individuals must carry on with Rosemary Nelson's legacy of fighting for justice and equality. Her death has

served to draw even more attention to this troubled area, and the many grave faults of the RUC. I am proud to have voted in support of House Resolution 128 and heartened that this legislation passed the House by an overwhelming margin. Very soon, I hope to see the government of the United Kingdom launch an independent inquiry into the practices of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and their role in the murder of Rosemary Nelson.

Earlier this month, the United States, Northern Ireland, and the United Kingdom celebrated the year anniversary of the Good Friday Peace Accords. This action provides encouragement for the future of this troubled region that the youth of tomorrow will outgrow the prejudices and hatred of the past. There have been significant strides for peace made in Northern Ireland and much progress has been made, but we must be ever vigilant for those who still refuse to give up the old ways of violence. We must stand up for human rights, just like Rosemary Nelson, and continue to send a message that acts of violence will not be tolerated any longer.

ST. FRANCIS ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Saint Francis of Assisi Church, in my hometown of Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary Celebration. I am pleased and proud to bring the history of this fine parish to the attention of my colleagues.

The church's origins go back to the early settlers along the Susquehanna River near what is now Nanticoke. The City was named for the Nanticoke Indians, who had emigrated from the Chesapeake Bay area in the 1770's. By 1825, Nanticoke was a coal mining town and most of the settlers were of English, Irish, and Welsh descent. As mining operations expanded, the need for labor increased and the area saw a wave of immigrants from Ireland and Central Europe. The need for a place of worship for these miners became apparent.

In September of 1874, Bishop O'Hara laid the Cornerstone of St. Francis Church with several hundred faithful in attendance. The parishioners built a wooden structure which served their needs until a larger more elaborate building was finished in 1879.

A succession of dedicated Pastors expanded the church and its services over the years. By 1888, a school and a convent had been added. By early 1900, the church had a choir under the leadership of Father James Martin. Father Moylan succeeded him and was an outstanding community leader, organizing temperance societies, the Boy's Cadets, the men's association, and the Holy Name Society. He remodeled the church during his tenure, adding its beautiful stained glass windows.

Mr. Speaker, this proud church withstood the storm of the Depression and two world wars. Its parishioners married there, baptized their children, and buried their loved ones there. This Church, St. Francis of Assisi, has been an integral thread in the fabric of life in Nanticoke for 125 years. It has been a place

of spiritual comfort to the community it faithfully serves. I am extremely proud to congratulate St. Francis on this milestone in its proud history. I send my sincere best wishes as this historic parish celebrates 125 years of service to the faithful and prepares to enter a new century and new millennium.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE KENNETH J. FULTON

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Kenneth Fulton, a remarkable public servant who is retiring after forty years of service to the citizens of Tinley Park, Illinois. The Honorable Kenneth Fulton will be recognized on the evening of April 29th, at an event hosted by the President, Clerk, and Trustees of the Village of Tinley Park.

The Honorable Kenneth Fulton's service to the Village of Tinley Park began in 1959, when he was elected Village Trustee. From 1963 to 1965, Kenneth Fulton was appointed Chairman of the Civil Service Commission of the Village of Tinley Park. In 1965, Kenneth Fulton was elected to the office of Village President, where he served until 1969. The Honorable Kenneth Fulton served as Bremen Township Collector from 1969 to 1971. From 1971 to 1999, Kenneth Fulton once again served Tinley Park as Village Trustee.

Honorable Kenneth Fulton saw the Village of Tinley Park, Illinois through forty years of growth and prosperity. When Kenneth Fulton began his involvement in Tinley Park, the village population was merely 5,000 citizens. There are currently over 46,000 citizens in Tinley Park. The Honorable Kenneth Fulton has been associated with a number of accomplishments during his years of service. These accomplishments include the first Cable TV contract for the Village and the region and the development of the concept of life safety assistance through the establishment of defibrillator equipment to be placed in all Police and Fire Department vehicles.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to pay tribute to Kenneth Fulton. I am certain that the community of Tinley Park, Illinois will miss his presence as a public servant. It is my hope that Kenneth Fulton enjoys good health and good memories in his retirement.

RECOGNITION OF U.S.-JAPAN CO- OPERATION ON EMERGENCY VE- HICLE PRIORITY CONTROL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues' attention the attached statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, "Emergency Vehicles Priority Control," following the highly successful Intelligent Transportation Systems conference in Washington last week.

As a follow up to last weeks highly successful Intelligent Transportation Systems

conference in Washington, I would like to join my congressional colleagues in recognizing the cooperative efforts between the United States and Japan to provide emergency vehicle priority control in Japan. This exchange of Intelligent Transportation technology by the United States, Japan's National Police Agency and the Universal Traffic Management Society of Japan is expected to improve response for emergency vehicles.

The United States Congress supports this important joint implementation of its technology between the two countries and applauds the leadership and commitment of Japan and the United States in improving public safety through improved emergency vehicle priority control.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CONSUMER FOOD SAFETY ACT OF 1999

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Consumer Food Safety Act (CFSA) of 1999, a comprehensive food safety bill that I introduced in the 105th Congress as well. I am very pleased to note that a companion bill was introduced today in the other body.

Food-borne illnesses continue to wreak havoc on the American people. Each day, new accounts of tainted foods and sick children are detailed in media reports. One such report that is in this month's issue of Glamour magazine details the experience of a long-time friend of mine who is also a constituent, Lynn Nowak of Metuchen. At an event earlier today at which I discussed the introduction of this bill, Lynn recounted the horrors of becoming ill from food poisoning while pregnant, which resulted in severe complications for both her and her daughter Julia. While Lynn has recovered her health, her life has been forever changed. Julia's motor development is far from what it should be at her age. Twenty months old, she receives physical therapy twice a week and her prognosis is uncertain.

The Consumer Food Safety Act of 1999 proposes a host of common sense measures to protect children like Julia and all Americans against food-borne illnesses. Most importantly, it proposes to modernize the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to fight the newest breed of food-borne illness agents, like E. Coli 0157:H7. And let me assure you, these modernizations are badly needed.

While the FDA oversees food safety for fruits, vegetables, juices and seafood, it receives less than one-third of the resources that the U.S. Department of Agriculture receives for its food safety responsibilities. Over the last five or so years, the volume of fruits and produce being imported into the United States has doubled while the number of FDA inspectors has decreased during the same time. Today, less than .2 percent of fruits and vegetables are tested for microbial contamination.

This neglect is producing severe consequences for the American public. A recently completed report from the Center for Science in the Public Interest compiled an inventory of 225 food-borne illness outbreaks between 1990 and 1998 and found that "foods regulated by the Food and Drug Administration

caused over twice as many outbreaks as foods regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

The GAO estimates that some 9,100 deaths each year can be attributed to food poisoning. If nothing is done to improve the situation, things will only get worse. Indeed, the Department of Health and Human Services estimates that food-borne related deaths and illnesses will likely increase by 10 to 15% over the next decade.

The Consumer Food Safety Act will address this growing problem in a number of ways. Let me explain the bill's three main components.

NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

First, the Consumer Food Safety Act establishes a National Food Safety Program to ensure the food industry has effective programs in place to assure the safety of food products in the United States. While this program will contain a number of provisions, I would like to draw your attention to two key aspects of this program, inspections and registrations.

The legislation requires quarterly inspections of food processing and importing facilities. It also requires food processors and importers to register with the Department of Health and Human Services, injecting needed accountability into the food safety system. The Secretary of HHS may suspend the registration if a facility fails to allow inspections or if a suspension is necessary to protect the public's health.

Those processors who have a good track record will receive a waiver from the quarterly inspection requirement, but those who do not pass the test will continue to be inspected for sanitary conditions and to determine if their food products are unsafe for human consumption. This should be the baseline for all foods. Frequent inspections are a key ingredient to any food safety package. A more rigorous inspection program is one of the principle pillars of our legislation.

I would just like to add that federal and state cooperation is crucial to implementing the National Food Safety Program our bill envisions. It is for this reason the bill includes a section specific to federal-state cooperation, directing the Secretary to work with the states to ensure state and federal programs function in a coordinated and cost effective manner.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The second major component of the Consumer Food Safety Act will be increased research and education. With new food-borne illnesses cropping up, additional research and education is necessary to devise treatments and better inform the public of threats to its safety. The bill I am introducing includes provisions to conduct better food surveillance and tracking to assess the frequency and source of food-borne illnesses. In addition, research will be conducted to improve sanitation practices and food monitoring techniques. The legislation will also target research on developing rapid testing procedures and determining contamination sources. The goal is to stop food-borne illnesses before they have a chance to spread.

As a complement to the research program, the CFSA contains education initiatives to enhance public awareness and understanding. In many instances, the medical community is not familiar with food-borne illnesses. Consequently, physicians are unable to properly diagnose and treat the illness until after additional complications develop or until it is too

late. In addition, to educating physicians, however, we must ensure that every American becomes an active participant in the battle against food-borne illness. To that end, the bill targets education initiatives toward public health professionals.

ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT TOOLS

The third major component of the Consumer Food Safety Act will provide the FDA with the additional enforcement tools it needs to better protect the nation's food supply. The bill includes notification and recall provisions that empower the FDA to stop tainted foods from entering the market. It also includes whistleblower protections to prevent employees from losing their job after reporting unsafe practices by bad actor employees. After all, it is the worker in the processing facility who is in the trenches and is most able to provide information about unsanitary practices. In order to give the bill the teeth it needs to be enforced, it includes civil monetary penalties for failures to comply with its provisions.

Taken together, the increased inspections, additional research and education, and enhanced enforcement tools of the Consumer Food Safety Act will ensure a safer food supply from farm to table. It is a common-sense solution to a growing problem. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in the effort to pass this bill so that we can stop the type of tragedy that has affected Lynn Nowak and her daughter Julia from happening to others.

NATIONAL CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS' WEEK

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, as we approach National Correctional Officers' Week, which begins May 3rd, I wanted to commend the officers who work in correctional facilities in my home state of Michigan. We owe a debt of gratitude to the men and women who patrol law enforcement's toughest beat and provide an invaluable service to our communities.

Correctional officers make the difference in ensuring that dangerous felons are kept securely behind bars. As we know from the correctional officers who have given their lives in the line of duty, it's a dangerous profession that works in the face of threat and deserves our respect and support.

We owe a special thanks to these officers who deal with some of the most hardened in our society and yet, deal with them professionally, firmly and fairly. We count on these brave men and women to remain forever alert and ensure the protection of our families.

Correctional officers are working in an increasingly stressful environment, as incarceration rates have risen and the inmate population has become more violent. By working together, we can address the unique and often dangerous challenges faced by correctional officers around the country. These officers deserve our commitment to improving working conditions, reducing the threat of assaults and ensuring that they receive wages equal to other law enforcement officers.

Too often, we fail to recognize the work of these men and women, but our communities are better, safer places to live and raise our

children because of their noble efforts. They deserve our admiration and our thanks.

HONORING THE BELLFLOWER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, improving our nation's public schools is one of the top priorities of the 106th Congress. We all share the goal of better educational opportunities for our nation's children. The only question is how to achieve that goal. Already this year both houses of Congress set an excellent tone of bipartisanship by passing the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999—a measure that will help bring much-needed relief to our schools and improving the academic achievement of our students. This bill, like others Congress will consider this year, recognizes that local control is best for our schools, rather than a "Washington knows best" policy. Local school districts across the nation are laboratories for reform—finding innovative ways to improve student achievement. I rise today to pay tribute to one such school district, the Bellflower Unified School District, which serves many students residing in California's 38th Congressional District.

The Bellflower Unified School District recently received a Citation in the 1999 Magna Awards for Outstanding Programs in Student Achievement, presented by The American School Board Journal and Sodexo Marriott School Services. The awards recognize local school boards for taking bold and innovative steps to improve their educational programs, and include \$500 in scholarship money. The Bellflower Unified School District received the award for its Intensive Learning Center in Lakewood, CA—an elementary school that serves as a research model to demonstrate what works best in elementary education. The Intensive Learning Center offers a rigorous course of study and a longer school day (8 hours) and school year (200 days). It features state-of-the-art technology, including a science laboratory that allows students to perform experiments usually available only to secondary school students. Its faculty includes five full-time specialists to provide enrichment in science, technology, reading, Spanish, and physical education.

Also key to the success of the Intensive Learning Center was the willingness of the Bellflower Board of Education to collaborate with teachers and unions. The board and the union negotiated time to allow grade-level teams of teachers to meet daily for an hour to plan instructional units. The teachers at the Intensive Learning Center deserve commendation for their hard work in making the Center a success.

The Bellflower Unified School District received another honor recently when Esther Lindstrom Elementary School in Lakewood was selected as a California Nominee in the National Blue Ribbon Schools 1998–99 Elementary Program. Esther Lindstrom Elementary is one of California's 49 Nominees in this competition. Nationally, 381 public schools were nominated. Esther Lindstrom is one of 224 public schools (39 in California) to be selected for a site visit in the competition. The

criteria on which the schools are judged include curriculum; teaching strategies; student achievement; student focus and support; school organization and culture; active teaching and learning; staff development; and school partnerships with families, businesses, and the larger community.

I congratulate Board of Education President Ruth Atherton, Vice President G. "Petie" Anderson, Clerk Rick Roysse, Board Member Harold Carman, Board Member Jerry Cleveland, and an outstanding Superintendent Dr. Rebecca Turrentine. They have made a real difference not only for the students of their School District, but also for children across the nation whose schools can learn from the innovations of the Intensive Learning Center and the successes of Esther Lindstrom Elementary School.

FREEDOM COMES AT A GREAT COST—"BLOOD AND SINS"

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I offer the following column written by John Kass in the March 29, 1999 edition of the Chicago Tribune to be entered in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

FREEDOM COMES AT A GREAT COST—"BLOOD AND SINS"

If you were downtown Sunday, and if you passed near Halsted Street, you may have seen the Greek Independence Day parade.

The Near West Side is far from the Balkans and far from Kosovo, but they were on the minds of everybody there. Those present thought about the present and the past.

We Americans come from so many different places. And there are other national day celebrations for the peoples who became free by their own hand and settled here.

But my favorite and the only one that counts is July 4, for all of us. That's when we Americans celebrate our independence from Britain, the founding of our own empire, and the strength of the union that was broken and recovered at a cost.

On Halsted Street, you would have seen children dressed in old country costumes and men in what look to be white kilts. You might have joked about men in skirts, especially if you don't know what they did long ago.

My great grandfathers and my great-great grandfathers dressed like that, in 1821, in their rebellion against the occupying power, the Ottoman Empire.

They wanted their freedom after 400 years of occupation by the Turks. They were tired of having to bow and kiss the hand of their conquerors. So they came down from the mountains with their long knives and guns, looking for blood—and they found it.

The Turks had spent four centuries in that land, and they considered it their own, with their own villages and towns, living side by side with the Greeks, mostly in peace.

But the sultan didn't tolerate freedom. The captured Greek soldiers were impaled on long poles for slow public deaths. Churches were burned, the nuns and priests skinned alive, villages cleansed, leaving only the stones to cry.

Matching the pasha's barbarism with their own, the Greeks committed unspeakable atrocities too. The English romantics who had adopted the Hellenic cause, the dilettantes who talked about fair play, were terrified.

But war and rebellion isn't about fair play. Once it begins it is about survival by people who are prepared to do anything. To the horror of their Western European supporters, the Greeks were prepared to do anything.

They fought the sultan's armies, and they raided Turkish villages, desecrating mosques, killing every man, innocent women and children, the livestock, everything that moved.

When they found Turkish soldiers, they did what the Turkish soldiers did to them, until the Turks finally fled.

The sins of the Greeks and the Turks were enough to send generations to hell. But finally, 400 years of Ottoman rule ended and part of Greece was free.

What we forget when we celebrate these independence days is the blood and the sins.

Like I said earlier, my favorite is July 4, for all of us Americans.

In America, while we celebrate our ethnicity and diversity, we should never forget that we're Americans first, even if we're hyphenated. We're Americans because we believe in this country and its freedoms, which is why we came here.

The only group that didn't have a choice was black Americans. They were liberated from slavery in a bloody Civil War. Appeals to the better angels of our nature didn't free the slaves.

What freed the slaves were the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans. The union was preserved, in part because of the atrocities committed by Sherman's army as he marched through the South, burning everything in his way.

Today, we call those tactics terrorism and barbaric and genocidal, but that's what was done to preserve the union. And let's not forget the Indians.

In our hyphenated ethnic celebrations, and when we sing the unifying Star Spangled Banner on the 4th, we concentrate on the positive images.

The newspaper photo of the little boys, like my own sons, eating souvlaki and waving. Or the tape of the little boys, like my own sons, chewing on an ear of corn in July, waiting for the fireworks.

What's forgotten is how unions are preserved and how independence is won—with the massacres of innocents, with children burned in their homes, with women dragged on the ground by the hair and finally dumped into graves.

It's not a video game and it's not clean. Americans are now finally debating NATO's war against Yugoslavia. We're in it, but many of us don't understand how and why.

And we don't want to deal with how it will grow, if we do what must be done to stop further atrocities against the Kosovars now that we're there.

We must understand the unspeakable violence, but we can't let that determine our reasons or rush us. So we can't creep our way in, distracted, rudderless, parsing the sentences of our political leaders to guess at what they mean.

If we're going to fight, we must fight to win. We already fought to lose once, in Vietnam.

But to win there will be a cost. So we better be prepared to pay it. And we better understand it now.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD F. "REGIS" GROFF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Denver leader Richard F.

"Regis" Groff whose leadership in Denver and throughout the world has enhanced so many people's lives. Regis Groff has contributed, not only to Denver through his teaching and civic involvement, but also throughout the world by traveling and working with foreign countries on humanitarian issues.

His international efforts have led him to many countries including Nigeria, Germany, Jamaica, Israel, China and South Africa to work on a variety of important issues. In Israel he worked on improving the Black-Jewish dialogue. He traveled to South Africa on a fact finding mission and, visited China with a small group of fellow legislators as part of a good will tour.

Regis Groff, who is now the Executive Director of Metro Denver Black Church Initiative, first came to Denver to get his Masters from the University of Denver. He taught history classes in the Denver Public Schools (DPS) until 1977, when he began working as an Intergovernmental Relations Specialist for DPS. From there he became the Community Affairs Coordinator for (DPS). From 1974 to 1988 he served in the Colorado State Legislature. In 1993 he worked as Consultant to the Chancellor of the University of Colorado at Denver and in 1994 he became Director of the Youthful Offenders System, where he targeted youthful offenders of crimes involving deadly weapons. His program vigorously worked to break down gang affiliations and instill hope and dignity to youth.

This is not the only work Groff has done to better Denver communities, but he has so many accomplishments, it is hard to list them all. He was Vice President of the Denver Federation of Teachers, the Senate Minority Leader for the Colorado State Senate and Vice President of the National Democratic Leadership Caucus to highlight a few accomplishments in his vast resume of community involvement.

The work he has done on behalf of the community has not gone unnoticed. He has received many awards for his efforts such as, Legislator of the Year Award from the Associated Press, the Appreciation Award in recognition of his work for the youth of Denver and the Distinguished Service Citation award presented by the United Negro College Fund to name a few.

Regis Groff's important work and selfless acts over the past two decades is what has inspired me to recognize and applaud his efforts today.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE POSITION ON TOBACCO SETTLEMENT

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, on March 22, 1999, the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature passed Legislative Resolution No. 22. The resolution petitions Congress and the executive branch to prohibit federal recoupment of state tobacco settlement recoveries.

I agree with the Legislature that the funds received under the tobacco settlement should remain with the states. Nebraska's portion of the settlement funds will be used for the preservation of the health of its citizens. I oppose

any effort by the federal government, which was not a party to the settlement, to claim a portion of these funds.

I call the text of the resolution to the attention of my colleagues, as follows.

NEBRASKA UNICAMERAL LEGISLATURE,
March 23, 1999.

Hon. LEE TERRY,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20515.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN TERRY: I have enclosed a copy of engrossed Legislative Resolution No. 29 adopted by the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature on the twenty-second day of March 1999. The members of the Nebraska Legislature have directed me to forward this resolution to you and to request that it be officially entered into the Congressional Record.

With kind regards.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. O'DONNELL,
Clerk of the Legislature.

Enclosed.

NINETY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, FIRST SESSION,
LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 29

Whereas, the State of Nebraska filed a lawsuit against the tobacco industry on August 21, 1998, in the district court of Lancaster County; and

Whereas, the State of Nebraska and forty-five other states settled their lawsuits against the tobacco industry on November 23, 1998, under terms of the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) without any assistance from the federal government; and

Whereas, under terms of the Master Settlement Agreement, Nebraska's lawsuit against the tobacco industry was dismissed by the district court of Lancaster County on December 20, 1998, and State Specific Finality was achieved in the State of Nebraska on January 20, 1999; and

Whereas, the State of Nebraska has passed legislation to allocate its portion of settlement funds awarded under the Master Settlement Agreement for the preservation of the health of its citizens; and

Whereas, the federal government, through the Health Care Financing Administration, has asserted that it is entitled to a significant share of settlement funds awarded to the settling states under the Master Settlement Agreement on the basis that such funds represent a portion of federal Medicaid costs; and

Whereas, the federal government previously chose not to exercise its option to file a federal lawsuit against the tobacco industry, but on January 19, 1999, the President of the United States announced plans to pursue federal claims against the tobacco industry; and

Whereas, the State of Nebraska is entitled to all of its portion of settlement funds negotiated in the Master Settlement Agreement without any federal claim to such funds.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Members of the Ninety-Sixth Legislature of Nebraska, First Session:

1. That the Legislature hereby petitions the Congress of the United States and the executive branch of the federal government to prohibit federal recoupment of state tobacco settlement recoveries.

2. That official copies of this resolution be prepared for forwarded to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and President of the United States Senate and to all members of the Nebraska delegation to the Congress of the United States with the request that it be officially entered into the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States.

3. That a copy of the resolution be prepared and forwarded to President William J. Clinton.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 30, 1999.

PATRICK J. O'DONNELL,
Clerk of the Legislature, Lincoln, Nebraska.
DEAR MR. O'DONNELL: Pursuant to the request of the Legislature, I have entered into the Congressional Record Resolution No. 29, adopted on March 22, 1999. A copy of the appropriate section of the record is enclosed.

I am pleased to be of assistance in bringing this important matter to the attention of my colleagues.

Sincerely,

LEE TERRY,
Member of Congress.

HONORING THE HUTCHINSON HOSE COMPANY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge the men and women of the Hutchinson Hose Company in Amherst, NY.

In 1835, residents of "Williams Mills" first donated a portion of their taxes toward the purchase of a fire engine, recognizing the community's need for fire protection. Since the time of that \$228 wooden wagon, Hutchinson Hose, which received its modern-day name in 1908 in honor of Edward H. Hutchinson, has grown with its community, providing superior fire protection for the residents of Williamsville.

For 164 years, the men and women of Hutchinson Hose have lived up to their early-day moniker of the "Rough and Ready Fire Engine Company Number One," and it is with great pleasure that I commend them during our deliberations today.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to pay special recognition to Mr. Irvin J. Lorch and Mr. David Sherman. Irvin will be honored on Saturday, May 1, 1999, for 50 years of dedicated volunteer service; and Mr. Sherman, a distinguished journalist and editor, will again be sworn-in as President of the Fire Company, the longest tenured president in fire company history.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the entire House of Representatives joins me in saluting the hard work and dedication of the Hutchinson Hose Company, and two of its most distinguished members, President Dave Sherman and Mr. Irvin Lorch.

LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE VETERANS HEALTH CARE BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH ARMY AND THE MEMBERS OF THE SPECIAL PHILIPPINE SCOUTS, H.R. 1594

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 1594, the Filipino Veterans Benefits Improvements Act of 1999. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this worthy legislation.

On July 26, 1941, President Roosevelt issued a military order, pursuant to the Phil-

ippine Independence Act of 1934, calling members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the service of the United States Forces of the Far East, under the command of General Douglas MacArthur.

For almost 4 years, over 100,000 Filipinos, of the Philippine Commonwealth Army fought alongside the allies to reclaim the Philippine Islands from Japan. Regrettably, in return, Congress enacted the Rescission Act of 1946. This measure limited veterans eligibility for service-connected disabilities and death compensation and also denied the members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army the honor of being recognized as veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

A second group, the special Philippine scouts called "New Scouts" who enlisted in the U.S. armed forces after October 6, 1945, primarily to perform occupation duty in the Pacific, were similarly excluded from benefits.

I believe it is long past time to correct this injustice and to provide the members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the special Philippine scouts with the benefits and the services that they valiantly earned during their service in World War II.

Realizing Mr. Speaker, that our current budgetary environment is not conducive to the creation of a new large entitlement program, I have crafted this legislation to be fiscally feasible while providing the veterans with the benefits in which they are most in need.

This legislation contains three major provisions. The first would provide disability compensation to those Filipino veterans residing in the United States on a dollar-for-dollar basis. This would replace the "peso rate" standard which Filipino veterans had to accept, even if they were residing within the United States and not the Philippines.

Second, this bill would make all Filipino veterans residing in the United States eligible for VA health care. These veterans, would be subject to the same eligibility and means test requirements as their American counterparts.

Finally, this legislation restores funding, which had been removed in 1994, to provide health care to American military personnel and veterans in the Philippines as well as for Filipino World War II veterans residing in the islands.

These veterans have waited more than 50 years for the benefits which, by virtue of their military service, they were entitled to in 1946.

I urge my colleagues to carefully review this legislation that corrects this grave injustice and provides veterans benefits to members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army and the members of the special Philippine scouts.

I submit the full text of H.R. 1594 to be included at this point in the RECORD:

H.R. 1594

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Filipino Veterans' Benefits Improvements Act of 1999".

SEC. 2. INCREASE IN RATE OF PAYMENT OF CERTAIN BENEFITS TO VETERANS OF THE PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH ARMY.

(a) INCREASE.—Section 107 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking "Payment" in the second sentence of subsection (a) and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (c), payment"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) In the case of benefits under subchapters II and IV of chapter 11 of this title by reason of service described in subsection (a)—

"(1) notwithstanding the second sentence of subsection (a), payment of such benefit shall be made in dollars at the rate of \$1.00 for each dollar authorized; and

"(2) such benefits shall be paid only to an individual residing in the United States who is a citizen of, or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in, the United States."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, and shall apply to benefits paid for months beginning on or after that date.

SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR HEALTH CARE OF CERTAIN ADDITIONAL FILIPINO WORLD WAR II VETERANS.

Section 1734 of title 38, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

"The Secretary, within the limits of Department facilities, shall furnish hospital and nursing home care and medical services to Commonwealth Army veterans and new Philippine Scouts in the same manner as provided for under section 1710 of this title."

SEC. 4. MANDATE TO PROVIDE HEALTH CARE FOR WORLD WAR II VETERANS RESIDING IN THE PHILIPPINES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter IV of chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 1735 as section 1736; and

(2) by inserting after section 1734 the following new section:

"§1735. Outpatient care and services for World War II veterans residing in the Philippines

"(a) OUTPATIENT HEALTH CARE.—The Secretary shall furnish care and services to veterans, Commonwealth Army veterans, and new Philippine Scouts for the treatment of the service-connected disabilities and non-service-connected disabilities of such veterans and scouts residing in the Republic of the Philippines on an outpatient basis at the Manila VA Outpatient Clinic.

"(b) LIMITATIONS.—(1) The amount expended by the Secretary for the purpose of subsection (a) in any fiscal year may not exceed \$500,000.

"(2) The authority of the Secretary to furnish care and services under subsection (a) is effective in any fiscal year only to the extent that appropriations are available for that purpose."

"(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 17 of such title is amended by striking the item relating to section 1735 and inserting after the item relating to section 1734 the following new items:

"1735. Outpatient care and services for World War II veterans residing in the Philippines.

"1736. Definitions."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

in America, I submit the following articles into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

NHL CAN'T SUBSTANTIATE RACIAL ALLEGATION

(By Ken Berger)

Philadelphia (AP).—Embroided in another racial controversy, the NHL had to admit the ugly reality of life on the ice. "Zero tolerance" often is hindered when there are zero witnesses.

Fact is, the annoying, personal and sometimes hateful words exchanged by players who are fighting for supremacy in a brutal game rarely travel to the ears of others or get caught on tape. The league ruled Tuesday that it was unable to confirm the latest accusation of racial hatred that crept into the game, leaving Sandy McCarthy and Tie Domi to settle their dispute the way it started—one-on-one.

After reviewing tapes and interviewing both players, league disciplinarian Colin Campbell ruled McCarthy and Domi are the only ones who know what happened Monday night on the national stage of a Stanley Cup playoff game. Both players will be on the ice again tonight in Game 4 of the contentious first-round series between Philadelphia and Toronto.

"None of the on-ice or off-ice officials could confirm having heard an offensive remark," Campbell, vice president and director of hockey operations, said in a statement from New York. "The league is on record as having a zero-tolerance policy regarding any racially motivated behavior, and any claim that a taunt or slur took place is an extremely serious one."

"After a thorough investigation, however, we have concluded this allegation cannot be independently substantiated."

After trading shoves and words with Domi during Toronto's 2-1 victory Monday night, McCarthy said the Maple Leafs forward "dropped an N-bomb on me" during a heated exchange in the second period. Officials on the ice and players for both teams said they didn't hear the slur. Domi denied using it, saying instead that McCarthy had spit in his face.

"I would never use those kinds of words, and he knows that," Domi said. "He can say what he wants."

McCarthy, whose father is black and mother white, said it was the first time he'd had a racial slur directed at him in his career.

"I think it's awful for the game," McCarthy said Tuesday at the Flyers' training facility in suburban New Jersey. "That's why it shouldn't be tolerated."

McCarthy said he was sure Domi used the slur. "No doubt whatsoever," McCarthy said. "You can't mistake that word for anything else."

After a workout at a separate New Jersey training site, Toronto coach Pat Quinn defended Domi. Asked why McCarthy would make such an accusation, Quinn said, "I think he's bloody embarrassed by spitting in the man's face."

Domi added: "It's something that will hopefully blow over, I've played with black guys in the league and I respect them."

In recent years, some NHL players have been accused of attacking the heritage of black players, whose numbers are still small but growing in a sport dominated by whites. In fact, McCarthy was involved in one of the incidents.

While with Tampa Bay, he and Darcy Tucker were cleared of accusations they made racial gestures at Florida Panthers forward Peter Worrell, who is black, during an exhibition game in October.

"It was proven that nothing happened," McCarthy said. "We talked to Peter on the

phone, and he said, 'I don't know what's going on, but I didn't hear anything and nothing happened.'"

Craig Berube, now with the Flyers, was found guilty of using a slur while with Washington in November 1997 and was suspended. Shortly thereafter, the league announced a "zero-tolerance" policy on the matter.

"We're playing a sport where guys are nuts out there sometimes," Berube said. "They're losing their minds, they're saying things. I say things. Everybody says stuff and does stuff they shouldn't do. You don't want to do it, but at the time you're not thinking like that."

Though no league action was taken, the specter of racial hate still hangs over the NHL.

Flyers general manager Bob Clarke said racial insults were prevalent during his Hall of Fame career. Even fewer blacks were in the league when he played from 1969-84.

"Unless you're a black player like Sandy McCarthy, none of us can understand what calling a person that name does to you," Clarke said. "It's up to the league to control that kind of stuff. And if an official hears it, then they should do something to stop it."

When it comes down to one player's words against another's, there seem to be zero answers.

COUPLE, FOUNDATION, ADMIT CAMPAIGN VIOLATIONS IN SETTLEMENT

(By Hunter T. George)

Olympia (AP)—A Seattle couple and a non-profit charitable foundation have agreed to pay a \$15,000 civil fine for concealing the source of a \$50,000 contribution to a political campaign.

Under the settlement reached with state Public Disclosure Commission investigators, the couple and the Seattle-based foundation, A Territory Resource, admitted to unintentional violations of the law.

The commission voted 3-0 Tuesday to accept the settlement, which calls for each party to pay a \$7,500 fine. The foundation also agreed to consult with state campaign finance regulators before seeking to make future campaign contributions on behalf of foundation donors.

The PDC opened an investigation after receiving a complaint about a contribution to the No!200 campaign against last fall's ballot initiative that sought to roll back government affirmative action programs. Voters approved the initiative.

The couple, David Foecke and Pat Close, contributed \$6,250 in their names to the No!200 campaign. They also sent \$50,000 to their "donor advised account" with ATR, which allows contributors to suggest how such money should be spent.

ATR complied with the couple's request to send all \$50,000 to the No!200 campaign.

Last Friday, PDC investigators accused the foundation of concealing the source of a campaign contribution and illegally acting as an intermediary. Investigators accused the couple of making an anonymous contribution.

There was no scheme between the couple, part owners of Cafe Flora restaurant in Seattle, and the foundation to break the law, said their attorney, Christopher Kane. They simply were afraid the size of the contribution would draw attention to themselves instead of the campaign against the initiative, he said.

"We felt very strongly that the law was unclear," Kane told the commission.

Foecke and Close agreed to the settlement to resolve the issue and refocus attention on the "negative effects of Initiative 200 on civil rights and equal opportunity," the couple said in a statement issued through a public relations firm.

EXPOSING RACISM

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, in my continuing efforts to document and expose racism

The foundation's lawyer, Kevin Hamilton, emphasized to the commission that the violations weren't intentional.

The \$7,500 fines exceeded the \$2,500 maximum penalty available to the PDC under state law. The total amounted to half of the \$30,000 fine the state could have sought in court if the commission had chosen to defer the case to the attorney general, PDC attorney Steve Reinmuth said.

STUDENT COMMITTEE URGES UNIVERSITY TO
FIGHT HATE CRIMES

Decatur, Ill. (AP)—Millikin University freshman Howard Walters says college is one of the best places to meet people from different races and backgrounds.

So it seemed natural for Walters to join a student committee urging the private, four-year university to take action against hate crimes—particularly after reports of several racially motivated incidents at the school in the last few months.

"We need to understand diversity," Walters said. "When we leave the university, we enter a very diverse world."

The committee, which has black and white members, has asked the university to issue a hate-crime policy, prosecute infractions fully and require diversity training for all faculty, staff and students. They also asked Millikin students to report all acts of hate to campus security.

The students formed the committee themselves and were not appointed by the university, but Terry Bush, the school's vice president for marketing and community affairs, said administrators are interested in their ideas.

"We're very glad students are actively involved in opening up the culture of campus, in saying to each other, 'We won't put up with this,'" Bush said Tuesday. "It's a very positive sign."

Danielle Brown, a freshman, is a member of the committee. A black student, she was wooed to Millikin on an academic scholarship to study music after being an honors student in high school. She loved it at first.

But in October, she found a racial slur written on a message board on her dormitory door. In March, more slurs were written all over her door. A day later, someone drew a scene depicting the hanging of a black person in another building.

And earlier in the year, an ethnically offensive e-mail was sent to an international student by another student. That student left the university when faced with disciplinary action, Bush said.

"I came here with the intention of getting my degree," Brown said. "Now, I feel like, why should I be here? I want answers. . . . What is the university doing to make sure this doesn't happen again? I don't want anyone to have to feel like I do now."

Sherilyn Poole, dean of student life and academic development, met with the student committee on Monday and told them there will be a hate crime policy outlined in the 1999-2000 student handbook.

Bush also said that administrators had already been working on many of the students' suggestions.

Millikin is trying to diversify its campus by recruiting minority students, faculty and staff. Total enrollment is 2,063 students, 14 percent of whom are non-white.

Brown said incidents of racism, especially shouted slurs, are common on and around the campus.

The Millikin gay and lesbian community also has complained of repeated verbal attacks—although most of the incidents have not been reported to the university.

John Mickler, director of security at Millikin, said the university community needs to take a stand against hate.

But he also said that he needs the cooperation of students. Only three instances of hate crimes have been reported to him since January, he said.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DOC
FRADY

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor today a great man who has set an example for all of us by the way he has lived his life. That man is Reverend Marvin "Doc" Frady, pastor of Clarkdale Baptist Church in the Seventh Congressional District, who is celebrating his 65th birthday this month.

Thirty years ago, Doc Frady had a successful practice as a chiropractor, which he built up over years of hard work. However, when he was called by the Lord to leave that lucrative practice and enter the ministry, he didn't hesitate for a moment. Since then, he has served as pastor to four different churches, and ministered to many thousands of men, women, and children.

Fortunately for all who live in the community Doc serves, he doesn't let his efforts to help others stop at the church door. He has organized numerous religious events, actively involved himself in public policy issues, and spent more hours in hospital rooms, weddings, and memorial services than most people who do those things for a profession. Throughout it all, he still found time to serve for 10 years on the board of Cumberland Christian Academy, and for nine years as Chaplain to the Cobb County Sheriff's Department.

Doc Frady's life has been a model of public service from which we can all learn. In everything he does, Doc has made helping himself a last priority, and devoted his life to serving God and his fellow man. Doc deserves the thanks of a grateful community for all he has done to make Cobb county one of the best places to live in America. Everyone who knows, or who has had their lives touched by, Doc Frady's love and commitment, joins in wishing him a very, very Happy Birthday.

TRIBUTE TO DR. S. DALLAS SIMMONS, PRESIDENT, VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY, ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the outstanding contributions of Dr. S. Dallas Simmons for his many years of leadership as President of Virginia Union University.

Dr. Simmons was born in Ahoskie, North Carolina. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at North Carolina Central University in business. He earned a Certificate in Administration from the University of Wisconsin, and in recognition of his outstanding work as a teacher and administrator, Dr. Simmons was

awarded a fellowship to Duke University, where he earned his doctorate in Administration in Higher Education.

Dr. Simmons' career includes: a consultantship with the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM); Director of the computer centers at North Carolina Central University and Norfolk State University; Associate Professor in the School of Business Administration, Vice Chancellor of University Relations at North Carolina Central University, and President of St. Paul's College in Lawrenceville, Virginia.

Many other organizations have benefitted from his membership, including the American Association of University Administrators, The College Fund, and the Richmond Forum Club. His honors are too long to list, but Dr. Simmons has been mentioned in Men of Achievement, the Directory of Distinguished Americans, Community Leaders of the World, and Outstanding Man of America.

Clearly, Dr. Simmons is a man of distinction. But his faithful dedication to education is perhaps his most important contribution. In addition to his commitment to and passion for increasing educational opportunity for disadvantaged students, Dr. Simmons has led Virginia Union University to outstanding fiscal management and significantly improved infrastructure. For the first time in its 134 year history, for example, Virginia Union University now has a freestanding library thanks to the persistence of Dr. Simmons. Consistent with his background, Dr. Simmons has led the university under the theory that, in order to best serve its students, a university should be administered much like a business. This guiding principle has served Virginia Union well, because it is now more than ever physically, fiscally, and academically strong and stable. Likewise, Dr. Simmons is well known among his colleagues for his vision and also his strong and steady leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I commend to you the achievements of the retiring Virginia Union University President S. Dallas Simmons, and ask that these remarks be made a part of the permanent record of this body.

ENRIQUE V. IGLESIAS, PRESIDENT
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
DEVELOPMENT BANK

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Enrique V. Iglesias who was recently named "Man of the Year" by *Latin Finance*. Mr. Iglesias, the former foreign minister of Uruguay and ex-executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, was also unanimously elected in 1997 to a third five-year term as president of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank.

Enrique Iglesias is a visionary—a man of insight and ability who has helped transform the IDB into an engine for reform, economic expansion, growth, and prosperity in the Western Hemisphere. As its President, he has led the IDB like a skilled navigator through tumultuous and sometimes uncertain waters in the last eleven years.

During his tenure in office, the Bank has become the leading multilateral provider of resources for Latin America and the Caribbean. Last year, the Bank recorded a figure of \$10 billion with heavy investments in such areas as education, health, environmental protection, structural modernization, and reconstruction from natural disasters.

He has actively supported the development of the private sector and capital markets in the region by promoting investment, lending, and innovation and has allocated the necessary resources to foster the growth of small and medium-size businesses in the region toward sustainability. His ability to develop and guide policies that will address the changing dynamics and economic landscape of the Hemisphere led to the establishment in 1994 of the Private Sector Department, a specialized operational department within the Bank, to provide long-term financing and guarantees for private infrastructure projects in the region.

I commend his dedication to mobilizing resources for the region and his commitment to the social and economic development of the Hemisphere.

MEDIA VIOLENCE

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with Rep. DAN BURTON to introduce a joint resolution requiring the Surgeon General to prepare and issue a new Surgeon General's Report on media violence and its impact on the health and welfare of our children. It is by no means all we should do in light of the tragedy in Littleton, Colorado, but it is certainly the least we should do.

Original cosponsors of this initiative include Representatives JIM MORAN, CONNIE MORELLA, JOHN SPRATT, JOE PITTS, JIM MCDERMOTT, GREG GANSKE, and JOHN LAFALCE.

We join with every parent, school official, student, religious leader and every other American who is struggling to identify what has gone so wrong with the process of growing up in America that our kids can kill our kids without remorse.

This is not a new subject. If the horror that unfolded last week at Columbine High was in any way unique, we could comfort ourselves with the fantasy that it was the product of one or two sick minds. But we know that violence has become as American as apple pie, and we are reaping a bitter harvest as we continue to tolerate a culture which teaches kids to kill and be killed.

Our culture has become infused with violent images and messages and the methods of delivering those images has multiplied exponentially. Television shows that glamorize massacres, movies that pantomime violent school killing sprees, video games that teach children how to shoot to kill their targets and Internet sites filled with vicious, destructive messages all function as desensitizing, conditioning mechanisms making it easier for our children to commit heinous crimes without understanding the finality and brutality of their actions.

Violent TV and film images now have a new interactive digital face in video games and on

the Internet. Guns are everywhere. Highly efficient assault weapons are available for sale on the street for the price of a pair of sneakers. More and more children are becoming alienated and depressed without the support structures needed to mediate their troubles, treat their illnesses, or protect them from themselves.

This is a very deep and complicated mess we're in, but it is our mess, a problem we share across the land. There is no place to run to escape its effects. We are facing a monumental task, which I would liken in its scope to a Marshall Plan for America, where the challenge is to rebuild the social structure of a society while respecting the Constitutional freedoms which all Americans cherish.

We can begin by examining the ways that children and young adults learn violence. The evil behavior that those young killers displayed at Columbine High School was not born in them nor learned from their parents.

The strong correlation between violent messages delivered to our kids and antisocial behavior delivered by our kids to society is well-documented. It was the fundamental finding of the Surgeon General's Report of 1972 and the Report by the National Institute of Mental Health in 1982. Both reports focused on television's impact on behavior. But since that time, the capacity of the entertainment deliver ever more graphic depiction of violence has vastly increased, and the outlets for delivering these images to children without the intervention of adults has multiplied many times. Moreover, the research community and the entertainment and interactive media has produced a vast compendium of research, polling, and analysis—much of it confusing and conflicting—but which is much more relevant to today's world than what was studied 15 or 30 years ago. The last government-sponsored review in 1982 includes the following introductory sentence:

"In view of the evidence that children are already attentive to the television medium by the age of 6 to 9 months, it is no longer useful to talk of the television set as an extraneous and occasional intruder into the life of a child. Rather, we must recognize that children are growing up in an environment in which they must learn to organize experience and emotional responses not only in relationship to the physical and social environment of the home but also in relation to the omnipresent 21-inch screen that talks, sings, dances, and encourages the desire for toys, candies, and breakfast food."

As the Information Age takes hold and as youth violence takes new and ever more disturbing twists through America's soul, we cannot afford to develop national policy on the basis of such a quaint view of the problem.

Therefore, we are calling on the Surgeon General to provide the country with a new Surgeon General's Report that reflects our contemporary crisis, that takes into account both the promise and problems of interactive media, and that makes findings and recommendations regarding how to combat the sickness of violence and to rebuild our national spirit.

Let me conclude by emphasizing my personal view that the President is correct to focus attention on the contributing factor of gun availability to children and the collapse of parental supervision with regards to dangerous weapons. Our response to the spread

of guns into the hands of our kids has been as disproportionate as our response to the cultural glamorization of gun use.

And while I expect to learn much from the dialogue and the research we are asking for today, I do not expect the front-line function of parenting to be found any less fundamental to raising healthy children than it has ever been.

RECOGNIZING EAST HIGH SCHOOL AND THE "WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION" PROGRAM

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 1999

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program, and specifically to applaud the East High School team that has come to Washington this year to represent Colorado in the national finals. These young scholars have worked diligently to make it to the finals and their hard work has gained them a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The names of the students are: Sarah Blum-Barnett, John Boisclair, Kristin Brauer, Elizabeth Clarke, Andrew Cundiff, Jocelyn Dudley, Michelle Ford, Lindsay Gilchrist, Michael Kaplan, Beth Linas, Natalie Lindhorst-Ballast, Brett Lockspeiser, Elizabeth McCartney, Anne McWilliams, Adam Mueller, Dan Murphy, Tristan Nelson, Brandi Raiford, Nathan Rose, Jeremy Schulman, Jeffrey Seversen, Ellen Strickland, Allison Tease. Additionally, I would like to commend their teacher Deanna Morrison who deserves much of the credit for the success of this great team and recognize both the District Coordinator, Loyal Darr, and the State Coordinator, Barbara Miller.

The "We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution" program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. These hearings consist of oral presentations by the students acting as constitutional experts before a "congressional committee" made up of a panel of judges acting as Members. The student testimony is followed by a period of questioning during which the judges probe students for their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

I know first hand how well this program works because I was a volunteer coach for years at a high school back in my district in Denver, whose students have done extraordinarily well in the We the People . . . competitions over the last decade. East High School has been among the top ten finalists 9 times in the last 11 years, and they won the competition in 1992.

Once again, I commend the East team for winning the State competition and I wish them the best of luck in the upcoming competition. I know Colorado will be well represented in the finals.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 29, 1999 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 30

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Aging Subcommittee
To hold hearings on issues relating to the Older Americans Act.

SD-628

MAY 3

2 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine youth violence issues.

SD-226

3:30 p.m.
Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia
Subcommittee
To hold hearings on management reform issues in the District of Columbia.

SD-342

MAY 4

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on Census 2000, implementation in Indian Country.

SR-485

Energy and Natural Resources
To resume hearings on S. 25, to provide Coastal Impact Assistance to State and local governments, to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act Amendments of 1978, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act, and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (commonly referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act) to establish a fund to meet the outdoor conservation and recreation needs of the American people; S. 532, to provide increased funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Programs, to resume the funding of the State grants program of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and to provide for the acquisition and development of con-

servation and recreation facilities and programs in urban areas; S. 446, to provide for the permanent protection of the resources of the United States in the year 2000 and beyond; and S. 819, to provide funding for the National Park System from outer Continental Shelf revenues.

SD-366

10 a.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee
To hold hearings on issues relating to international antitrust.

SD-226

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 353, to provide for class action reform.

SD-226

MAY 5

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-366

Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to markup pending calendar business.

SR-253

Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on Tribal Priority Allocations and Contract Support Costs Report.

SR-485

10 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings on the current state of Federal and State relations.

SD-342

MAY 6

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the results of the December 1998 plebiscite on Puerto Rico.

SH-216

Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings on Federalism and crime control, focusing on the increasing Federalization of criminal law and its impact on crime control and the criminal justice system.

SD-342

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Antitrust, Business Rights, and Competition Subcommittee
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

MAY 11

10 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings on how to promote a responsive and responsible role for the Federal Government on combatting hate crimes.

SD-226

10:30 a.m.
Governmental Affairs
Oversight of Government Management, Restructuring and the District of Columbia
Subcommittee
To hold hearings on multiple program coordination in early childhood education.

SD-342

MAY 12

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings on HUBzones implementation.

SR-485

MAY 13

9:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings on S. 698, to review the suitability and feasibility of recovering costs of high altitude rescues at Denali National Park and Preserve in the state of Alaska; S. 711, to allow for the investment of joint Federal and State funds from the civil settlement of damages from the Exxon Valdez oil spill; and S. 748, to improve Native hiring and contracting by the Federal Government within the State of Alaska.

SD-366

MAY 19

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold hearings on S. 614, to provide for regulatory reform in order to encourage investment, business, and economic development with respect to activities conducted on Indian lands; and S. 613, to encourage Indian economic development, to provide for the disclosure of Indian tribal sovereign immunity in contracts involving Indian tribes, and for other purposes.

SR-485

MAY 20

2 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Energy Research and Development, Production and Regulation Subcommittee
To hold hearings on S. 348, to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance training, research and development, energy conservation and efficiency, and consumer education in the oilheat industry for the benefit of oilheat consumers and the public.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Energy Research and Development, Production and Regulation Subcommittee
To hold joint oversight hearings with the House Committee on Government Reform's Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs, on the Administration's fiscal year 2000 budget request for climate change programs and compliance with various statutory provisions in fiscal year 1999 appropriations acts requiring detailed accounting of climate change spending and performance measures for each requested increase in funding.

SD-366

SEPTEMBER 28

9:30 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to review the legislative recommendations of the American Legion.

345 Cannon Building